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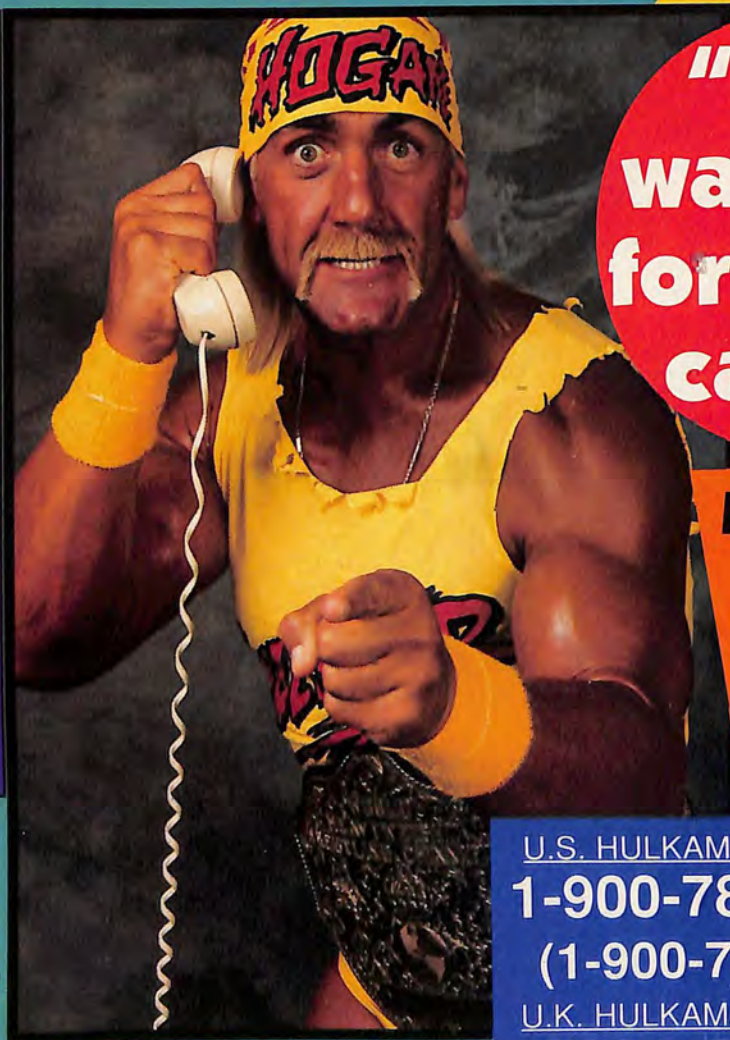


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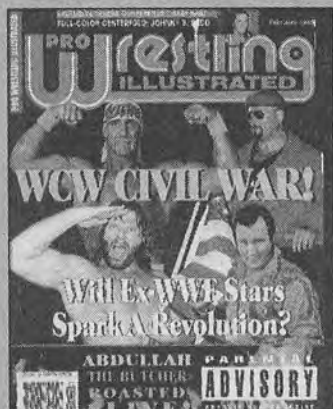
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PREDICTING WAR



In our February 1995 issue, we discussed the current state of WCW and its similarities to the WWF of the mid-1980s. There is speculation that some of the WCW mainstays are upset that former WWF stars currently competing in the promotion are getting so much attention. Our readers had a strong reaction to the possibility of a promotional "revolution."

"I think that there will be a war," wrote Mike Coleman of Huntsville, Alabama. "I am sick of those untalented ex-circus freaks trying to take over WCW. They are ruining the best wrestling federation in the world with their silly antics. I wish they'd soon leave before they ruin WCW!"

"I believe that there may be no hope for wrestling now that there are basically two WWFs," wrote Anne Billings of Charleston, South Carolina. "When will they realize that we didn't like it then ... so why would we like it now?"

"I have only one thing to say about this controversy," said "PWI Hotline" caller Jay Unger of Laurel, Maryland. "Long live ECW!"



Hulk Hogan was in a lot of pain at Clash of the Champions XXVIII after being attacked by a masked man. Reader Harry Simon credits Brutus Beefcake and others for turning against Hogan, whom he says is a poor role model.

HULK BUSTER

The best part about "Delirious, Devastated, & Demoralized: Hulk's Astonishing Ambulance-Ride Confessions" (January 1995) was that Hogan's whining and finger-pointing at Clash of the Champions XXVIII came back to haunt him at Halloween Havoc. I heartily applaud Brutus Beefcake for seeing the proverbial light and realizing that Hogan cares only about himself. Hogan will stab you in the back and have you arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. Don't take my word for it. Ask Paul Orndorff, the late Andre the Giant, Randy Savage, or Sid Justice/Vicious.

And am I the only wrestling fan who was thoroughly disgusted when Hogan admitted he lied to all his "Hulkamaniacs" on *The Arsenio Hall Show* about steroid use? People who don't know an armbar from a wet bar have heard of Hogan. Like it or not,

he's the ambassador of pro wrestling in the eyes of the mainstream public. Great role model, huh? If you love wrestling, you should loathe Hulk Hogan. He's my Most Hated Wrestler of the Year.

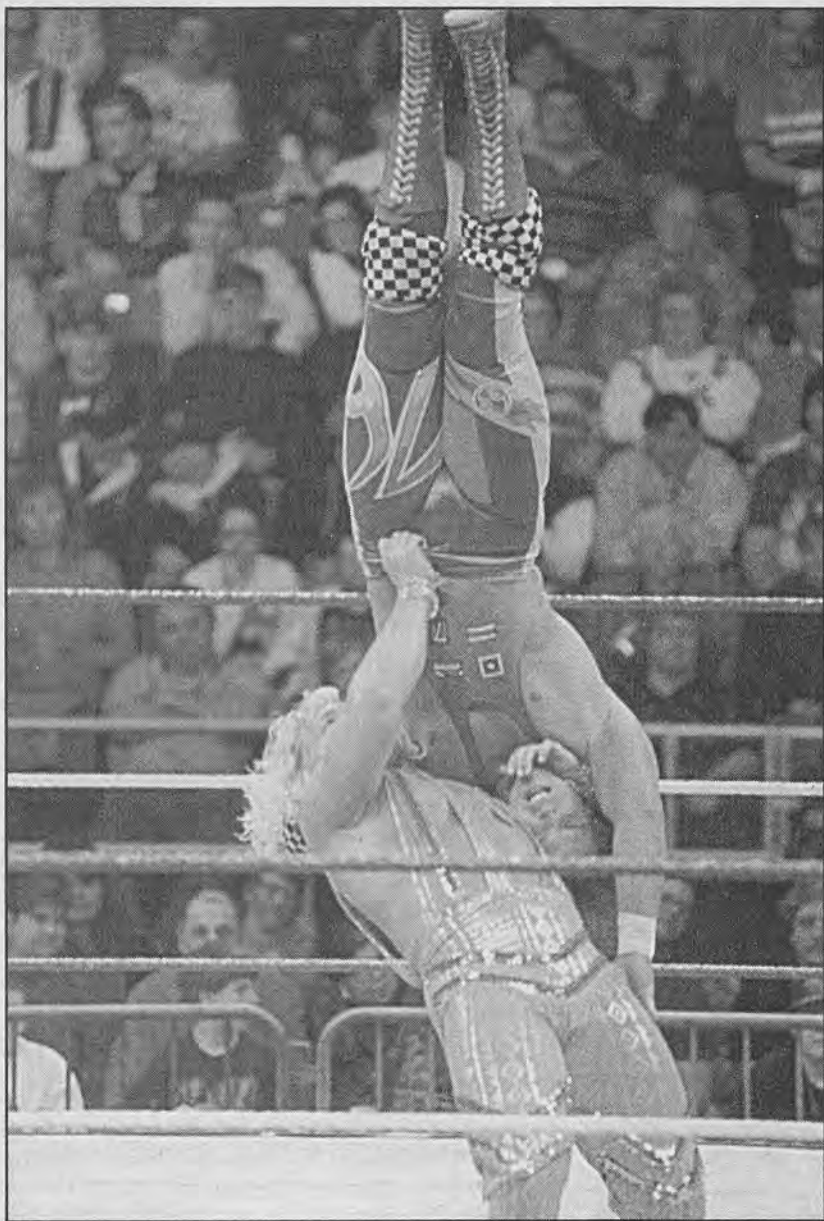
HARRY SIMON

Las Vegas, NV

SIGN OF THE TIMES

I agree with some of the comments made by Beverly Oancia in her letter that appeared in "Between Falls" in the January 1995 issue ("Biased Remarks"). When the WWF pans the audience during its telecasts, it rarely shows fans holding signs glorifying the rulebreakers or signs criticizing the fan favorites. I find this letter of particular interest, especially since I am the "sick individual" Gorilla Monsoon referred to recently. I am the person who was holding up the pro-Jeff Jarrett sign.

The next time the sign appeared on



Jeff Jarrett has a fan in reader Sue Joy. She is upset that WWF broadcasters made fun of her for holding up a pro-Jarrett sign and thinks the WWF should realize that some fans like rulebreakers.

television, Vince McMahon asked Jerry Lawler how much he thought Jeff Jarrett paid the fan to hold it up. Now I am not only a sick individual, but also a person who accepts bribes.

I cannot speak for Jarrett or his other fans, but I do not feel an apology is necessary. However, I do wish that the WWF would accept the fact that some fans do cheer for the bad guys. In the future, the WWF should show the fans at the matches without snide remarks. After all, where would the excitement be if everyone cheered for the same people?

SUE JOY
Poughkeepsie, NY

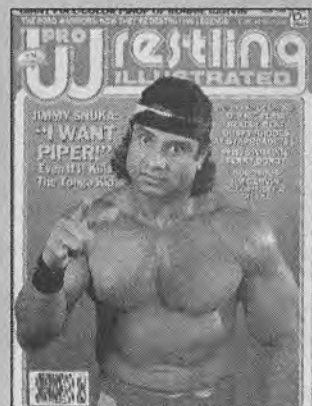
GREAT MOVE, ECW

I would like to comment about "From The Desk Of ... Stuart M. Saks" (January 1995), in which Mr. Saks discussed ECW's decision to break away from the NWA. If ECW did plan the break before Shane Douglas threw the NWA belt down in disgust, where's the hard evidence? To expect us to believe that it was planned, you have to produce some evidence.

Even if the split was planned, so what? The move was one of the best in the history of the sport. It freed ECW from the dead weight known as the NWA. The NWA died seven years ago,

(Continued on page 50)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the April 1985 issue featured Jimmy Snuka, with the accompanying headline, "I Want Piper!" In the story, a source close to Snuka warned that the "Superfly," who was injured at the time, should have been discouraging his cousin The Tonga Kid from battling Roddy Piper, Snuka's arch-rival at the time. Instead, Snuka was allowing Tonga to wrestle all over the country in some wild matches. Many thought Tonga was overmatched against Piper.

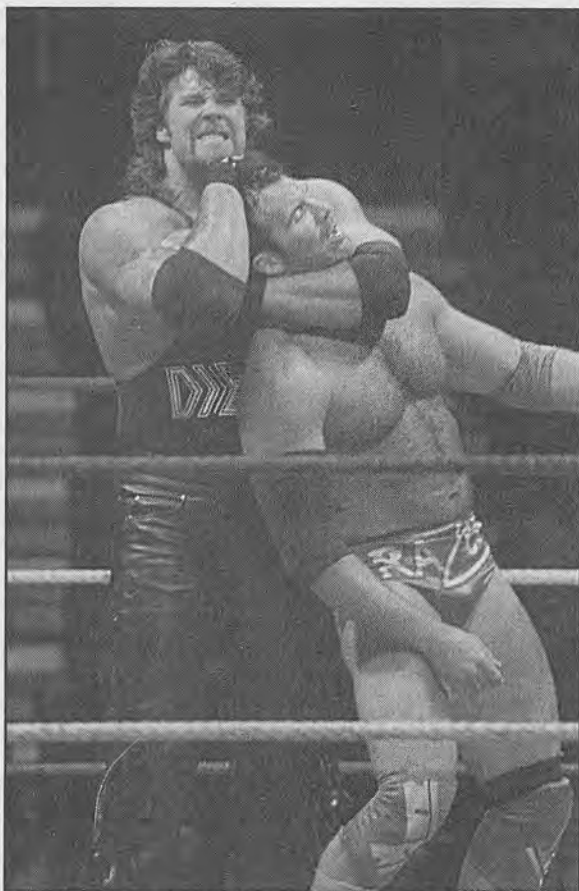
The centerfold showcased Ronnie Garvin, then the National champion. Garvin had defeated Ted DiBiase for that championship on October 11, 1984, in a wild bout in Baltimore. "The Man With The Hands Of Stone" had received several title shots against NWA World champion Ric Flair, but was to that point unsuccessful in his quest to capture that belt.

Elsewhere in the magazine: "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin and his valet, Precious, made a memorable entrance into the AWA and Garvin talked about the fans' reaction to his flamboyant style ... Terry Gordy shaking hands with arch-enemy Kerry Von Erich? It happened and PWI had the pictures and the explanation in "Press Conference" ... The Road Warriors' drive to knock Terry and Dory Funk Jr. out of wrestling was chronicled in "The Road Warriors: Now They're Destroying Legends."

Magazine availability: Limited.

RING

With Bill Apter



Diesel and Razor Ramon feuded over the Intercontinental title for months in 1994. If Diesel is really the fighting WWF World champion he claims to be, we should see these two clash again.

WWF WORLD CHAMPION **Diesel** claims he will be a fighting champion, just like **Bret Hart** was. If he really means what he says, shouldn't Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** get a shot at the heavyweight belt? Yes, Razor did get a title match against Hart at the 1993 Royal Rumble, but after he became a fan favorite and won the I-C belt, no more title shots came his way. That amazes me.

Hey, "Big Daddy Cool," if you really want to be considered a fighting champion, put the pressure on the matchmaking committee and tell them Razor deserves a title match!

Big Van Vader and **Harley Race** are still resisting offers to join **The Faces of Fear**, which currently consists of **Kevin Sullivan**, **Avalanche**, and **Brutus "The Butcher" Beefcake**, all sworn enemies of **Hulk Hogan**. "We don't have any beef with those guys," Race told me. "We just want to pursue Hogan in our own way. We don't need any help!" ... Kudos to **Rick Morton** of **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** for pinning new NWA champion **Chris Candido** in a non-title match. Morton is seeking a title shot now, but Candido also has **Eddie Gilbert**, **Terry Funk**, and many others asking for championship matches. And **Boo Bradley**, who has a score to settle with Candido, certainly wouldn't mind getting a title shot.

Robert Harmon, a Los Angeles-based businessman, is now managing **Buddy Landell** in his Smoky Mountain matches. Harmon insists he has several endorsement deals with major sporting goods manufacturers lined up for Landell. "I will make this magnificent talent a household name," Harmon said. By the way, Harmon is no stranger to the sport. He wrestled under the name **Beautiful Bobby** back in the 1970s.

Jerry Lawler is headed to Smoky Mountain. He's on the trail of "Dirty White Boy" **Tony Anthony's** heavyweight title ... "Friendly" **Frank Finnegan**, the WWA heavyweight champ, is not so friendly anymore. He wants to be called "Fighting" Frank and is sick of playing by the rules. "Rulebreakers can get away with anything they want," he told me. "A match that takes me 20 minutes as a fan favorite only takes five as a rule-breaker. A few punches and kicks—below the belt if necessary—and I go home with a paycheck without even having to break a sweat!" ... WWF newcomers **Hakushi** and his manager, **Shinja**, have impressed **Ted DiBiase** so much that the "Million-Dollar Man" has had some preliminary



Jerry Lawler and Tony Anthony faced off in the first round of the NWA title tournament, and it wasn't a scientific bout. Now "The King" is headed to Smoky Mountain to pursue Anthony's SMW heavyweight title.

discussions with them. He might soon make them an offer to join his Corporation.

"**Love Machine**" **Art Barr's** death (he was only 28) has hit those involved with AAA very hard. "He was one of our biggest stars," said one of the group's promoters. "This is a very sad time for our promotion. He will be missed terribly" ... Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion **Doug Gibson** notes that **Roger Anderson** is his toughest challenger to date. "That guy is one tough hombre. Real underrated," were Gibson's exact

words ... **Diamond Mike** is telling everyone who will listen to him that **Jack Hammer**, the WWWA Intercontinental champ, could beat **Diesel** and **Razor Ramon** if given the opportunity. "Oh, by the way, I mean he can beat both in one night," Mike boasted ... **Tyree Pride** believes that Plant City Southern heavyweight champion "**Outlaw**"

(Continued on page 52)

from the desk of...
Stuart M. Saks

Sing the praises of WCW; the WWF is dead! It's party time at *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, many of you must be thinking. We hate the WWF. You've told us that so many times over the past 10 years, I almost began to believe it. Truth is, we do not hate the WWF. We hate what the WWF has, under the direction of Vince McMahon Jr., come to represent. We believe that while there is plenty of room for sport and must be respected as such. Doink may be a decent wrestler, but, dammit, he's a clown. I don't like to feel embarrassed when a non-fan walks into my living room while I'm watching wrestling. Doink embarrasses me. A good portion of the WWF talent roster embarrasses me. The WWF embarrasses the sport.

See, you do hate the WWF, many of you must be thinking now.

Not true. I may criticize the WWF for its entertainment-first, sport-second philosophy, but I'd be a fool not to recognize—and appreciate—all the good it has done. While wrestling may not be as hot as it was in the mid- and late-'80s, there are more wrestling fans today than there were before Vince McMahon Jr. began his nationalization plan in 1984.

The best way to appreciate what the WWF has done is to compare it to the stock market. Figuratively speaking, of course, if you invested in a stock called Pro Wrestling in 1983, you would have made money if you sold in 1994. If you jumped on the bandwagon in 1988, when the stock was at its height, however, you'd be a loser if you sold in 1994.

(Continued on page 56)

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in focus

By Craig Peters

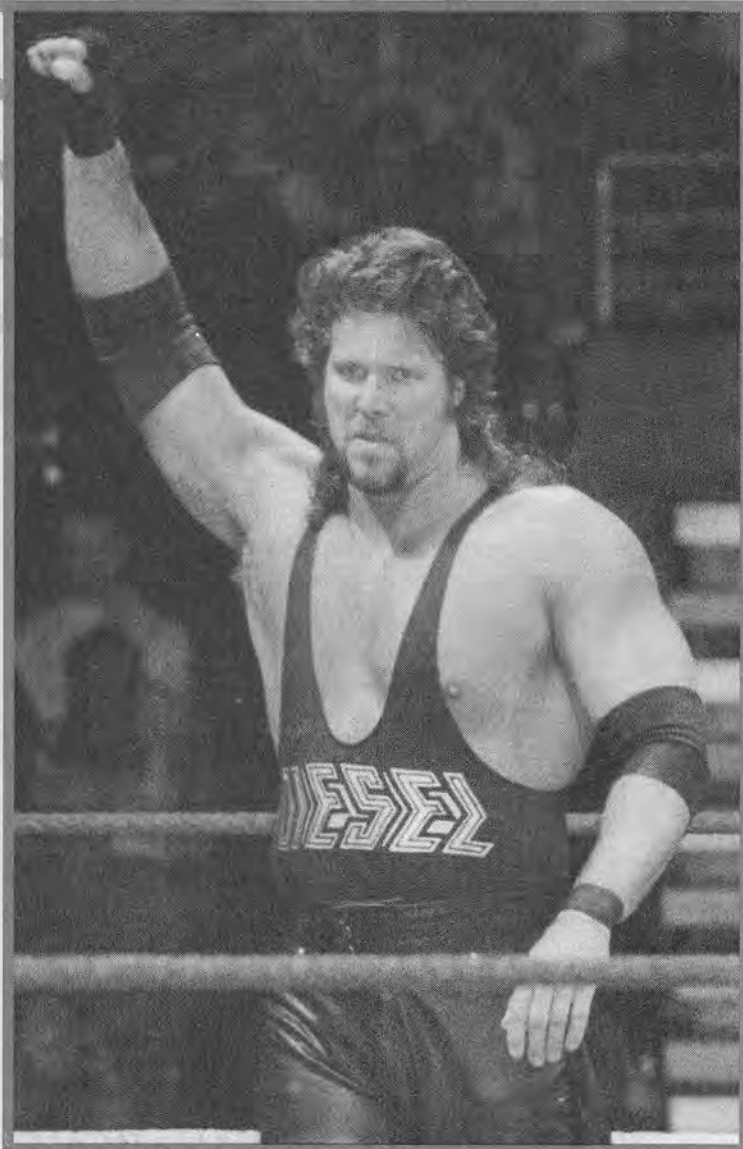
THIS 'N' THAT...

After last month's marathon editorial sessions that were required to put together the year-end issue, I'm still too burned out to come up with very many cohesive ideas for a complete column. So that means it's time to unload (or download? This is, after all, the age of the information highway) a variety of thoughts on a variety of topics, to wit ...

When I look at the history of the NWA title, the first names I will be thinking of are **Ric Flair**, **Lou Thesz**, **Harley Race**, **Dory Funk Jr.**, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Buddy Rogers**, and **Gene Kiniski**. Not to mention **Bill Longson**, **Pat O'Connor**, **Dick Hutton**, and even **Bronko Nagurski**. **Chris Candido**? First of all, it's not even the NWA *World* title anymore, at least as far as this magazine is concerned. Even if it was, Candido would rate somewhere around **Ali Baba** and **Yvon Robert**. Does he have a lot to prove? You bet.

Speaking of title prestige, a lot of shine has been lost from the WWF belt, don't you think? The title switched from **Bret Hart** to **Bob Backlund** when **Helen Hart** threw in the towel. Did Helen have any right to throw in the towel? No. Does this help the title's prestige any? Absolutely not. Of course, the **Hart-Yokozuna-Hulk Hogan** fiasco of '93 didn't help much, either. Does **Diesel** deserve respect for his blowout victory over Backlund? Certainly, but let's face it: He's the weakest WWF World champion since **The Undertaker**. This will surely be a case of the title making the man rather than the other way around, and I have serious doubts as to whether Diesel is up to the task.

Yes, **Art Barr** may have been a couple of years away from international greatness, and his death at the age of just 28 as he slept next to his five-year-old son was undeniably tragic. But do those who have placed him on a posthumous pedestal recall the fact that Barr was once charged with rape? The fact that he plea-bargained down to first-degree sexual abuse doesn't excuse the crime. Sorry, folks, if **Pete Rose** can be denied Hall of Fame membership for gambling, then I'm denying myself any crocodile tears for the "Love Machine."



Diesel earned some respect when he flattened Bob Backlund for the WWF World title in eight seconds. He has a long way to go before he can be compared favorably to Hulk Hogan and Bruno Sammartino.

I'm far more likely to mourn the fact that **Rick Steamboat** has decided to call it quits. Yeah, I know, he's done so in the past. Several times. And wrestling is a sport where loser-leaves-wrestling losers come back all the time and retired wrestlers unretire with regularity (I'm still betting that **Ric Flair** will be back). So why should we believe that Steamboat *won't* be coming back before we're all running through sprinklers trying to cool down this summer? Well, this time it's for real, folks: A herniated and collapsed disk in his spine says so, and that's good enough for me.

Well, WCW has lost "The Dragon" and **Ric Flair** in the space of a few months, and who have they picked up to compensate? **Hacksaw Duggan** and **The Honky Tonk Man**. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Trying to recreate the WWF of a decade ago with the same wrestlers 10 years older is only going to destroy WCW in the long run. Think of TV shows like *The Brady Bunch*, *I Dream Of Jeannie*, *Gilligan's Island*, and so on: The originals may be fun, but the reunion movies always stink. This new WCW is just a reunion movie of WWF circa 1985, and it stinks.

Remember when the WWF was raiding all the top talent in the wrestling world? Who are the new names that federation is bringing in now? **Henry Godwinn**? **Aldo Montoya**? **Lee Roadie**? **Hakushi**? A revival of the **Harvey Wippleman-Howard Finkel** feud? Boy, how times have changed!

It looks like WCW is going to revive the light heavyweight division. That's a shred of good news for the federation. Remember when **Brian Pillman** vs. **Jushin Liger** was all the rage? The division hosted some spectacular action. But as the saying goes: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. So excuse me if I don't get too excited about the revived division ... at least until it lasts longer than the few months it did the last time or two it was spotlighted.

Unabashed plug department: I suspect that 1995 will see the popularity of independent wrestling (i.e., non-WWF and non-WCW wrestling) grow even further. If you suspect the same, keep an eye out for the Spring 1995 edition of our sister publication *Wrestle America*. The "magazine within a magazine" for that issue will be a comprehensive directory of independent promotions in North America. We're talking names, addresses, top stars, future superstars—this is a must-read if you care about the sport beyond **Diesel** and **Hulk Hogan** ... and who doesn't? The Spring edition of *Wrestle America* hits the newsstands January 31.

A lot of people look to ECW as being the future of wrestling, but I'm not so sure. Yes, the action is fascinatingly brutal. Yes, the matches in ECW bring out the best in the wrestlers who compete there. Yes, the crowd is as bloodthirsty as they come. But can *Extreme Championship Wrestling* grow to be more than just a

cult following in a cult sport, or is it too ... well, *extreme*?

Here's a poll to close out this issue's column. I want you to take a moment and drop us a card or letter here at PWI and answer two questions: (1) Who is the one star that, when you see him (or her) in action either in person or in the press, makes you proud to be a wrestling fan and makes you want to see him (or her) again and again? In other words, who is the one star that makes wrestling exciting and worth watching for you? On the flip side: (2) Who is the one star you wish would fade away from the sport tomorrow and never be heard from again? I'm not talking preliminary wrestlers, I'm talking folks in the upper reaches of the "PWI 500," wrestlers who receive plenty of publicity and television time, but make you groan and reach for the remote



Is this a man around whom you want to build a wrestling promotion? Howard Finkel is a terrific and popular ring announcer, but what does it say about the WWF when a Finkel-Harvey Wippleman feud is making headlines?

control (or head for the arena concession stand) every time you see them. Send your responses (plus any and all kinds of additional comments) to: Personality Poll c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. I'll report on the results in a future column. □

win or lose draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

TEN YEARS AGO, Lex Luger made his professional debut. Ten months ago, the former WCW World champion was a prime contender for the WWF World belt.

Ten weeks ago, he was pinned by King Kong Bundy at Survivor Series.

Now it is no shame to fall to the massive Bundy. For Luger, however, times were supposed to have been so much better.

It's very simple. A lot of people who know a lot about wrestling expected Luger to be in the midst of a WWF World title reign by now. The fact that he isn't has a lot of them wondering whether he ever will be.

"Lex is still a young man," said WWF fan Neil White of Rochester, New York, whom I spoke to at a recent card. "There really isn't any reason to believe he won't achieve all he's capable of. But there does seem to be this sense that if he doesn't get going soon, he won't ever get going. It isn't something I want to believe, but it's a nagging feeling."

It is rumored that Luger would still rather be a body-

builder than a wrestler. Some people even say that he is no longer very excited by his victories in the ring. It was Vince McMahon who persuaded him to leave WCW for the World Bodybuilding Federation, an organization that McMahon hoped would revolutionize that sport.

A motorcycle accident several days before the WBF's inaugural event stopped Luger from competing. Within a year, the WBF had folded. For Luger, it was back to the promise of wrestling.

"At that time," said former tag team partner Tully Blanchard, "I think Lex resigned himself to the fact that bodybuilding would have to be put on hold. He was ready to get back in the ring and go after that World title again."

A stint as the "Narcissist" under the management of Bobby Heenan didn't lead Luger much closer to his dreams. He quickly came to see his new image and

new manager as huge mistakes. He has a huge ego, but even he had reached his limit.

It was then that Yokozuna's treatment of America began to bother Luger, who had never been one to use his love of country to rally support for himself.

"I realized then," he said at the time, "that there was something greater than my own little world."

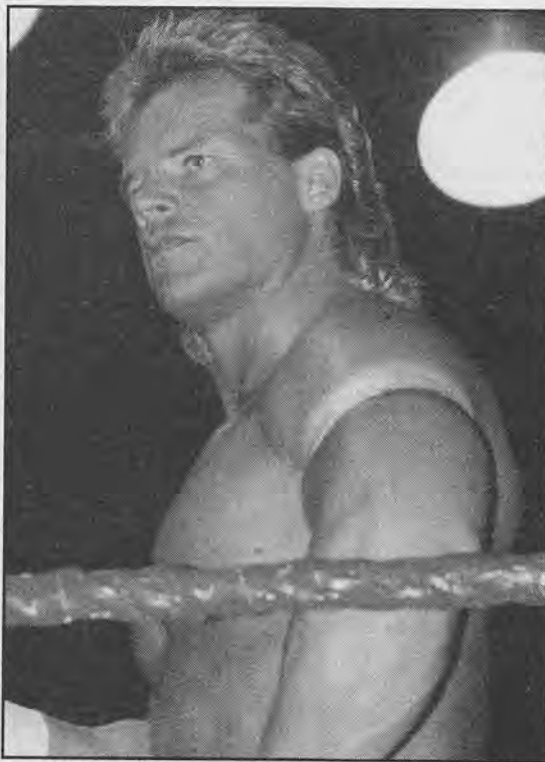
He vowed to win the World title from Yokozuna not for himself, but for his country. He embarked on a bus tour of America—the Lex Express tour—gaining support for his cause and winning praise from those who before doubted his intentions.

Said one WWF fan favorite who also competed against Luger in WCW: "Luger committed himself to the thing with amazing intensity. When I heard him speak to the kids about how for-

fortunate they are to live in this country, I felt like he believed those words."

The belief was strong, but it wasn't enough to help Luger overcome Yokozuna. He came close—extremely close—but he just couldn't get the job done.

(Continued on page 58)



For all the hype surrounding Lex Luger and all the attention focused on this muscular star, he is still in the same position that he was when he entered the WWF: in contention for the World title, but not the top contender.

TAKE US ON!



#1: Big Ben



#2: Ace Stevens



#3: Jaeger van Dorn



#4: Bodybag Jones



#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage



#6: Eric Darkstrom



#7: Nook the Secret Weapon



#8: Derek Craven



#9: El Diablo Sanchez



#10: Tygar Singh

WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

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★ ★ ★

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SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces

FINISHING HOLD

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose \$1⁰⁰ for each.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

the Steel Cage

By Chris Bernucca



Diesel's career has followed an odd course. He got a big break when Shawn Michaels brought him to the WWF as his bodyguard. But it wasn't the first big break the new WWF World champ got.

FILL IT UP WITH DIESEL.

Hey, what do Luke Perry and Bob Backlund have in common? Both are adept at staying on top for eight seconds.

Unfortunately, the similarities end there. Perry, in a movie role as a rodeo star, was trying to stay on top of a bull. In his situation, eight seconds represented a very long time. Backlund, in a role as a rule-breaking champion, was trying to stay on top of a wrestling federation. In his situation, eight seconds represented the shortest title reign in WWF history.

In the record books, Backlund's reign will be officially marked as three days, because he won the title on November 23 and lost it on November 26. But in just his second match following his upset of Bret Hart at Survivor Series, he was dethroned in a mere *eight seconds*. *Eight seconds*. Remember, that time includes the three-count, so the man who once held the title for more than five years found a way to lose it in five seconds.

The man who did the damage to Backlund was Diesel, who has gone from hanger-on to hero in about seven months. His pin of Backlund completed an unprecedented trifecta, giving him the WWF World tag team title, Intercontinental title, and World title in the same calendar year. No WWF wrestler had ever accomplished that. Not Bruno Sammartino. Not Bret Hart. Not Hulk Hogan. Not anyone.

Who is this guy? I found out three years ago, when I spoke to him at a WCW card in New Jersey. Maybe you didn't know this, but Diesel used to be a pretty good college basketball player. He also used to be a bouncer. At one time, he was the biggest joke in the sport. Now the joke is on everyone else.

Fifteen years ago, Diesel thought a powerslam was something you did on the hardwood, not the canvas. Although he got his start in the Smoky Mountain region, it was not as a grappler for Tammy Fytch, but as a center for the University of Tennessee basketball team. He played three years for the Volunteers in the late-1970s, averaging about eight points per game in his senior season.

When you're nearly seven feet tall and can't be moved out of the low post, you don't dream about pinning Stan Stasiak. You think about dunking over Bob Lanier and Wes Unseld. However, the scouts thought differently. Diesel was a "tweener," too slow to play power forward and too small to play center. The NBA is often a cruel world. Where else can someone who stands 6'10" be told he is too small?

"So I went to play in Europe," he said. "The big men aren't as big over there, and you can make a pretty good living playing basketball. But ..."

But he blew out his knee. The rehabilitation lasted nearly a year, and when he returned to the court, he found that he moved faster than trees and houses, but not much else. Frustrated by his inability to regain his past form, he quit basketball and returned to the United States.

Diesel settled in Atlanta, still oblivious to the future wrestling had in store for him. His size helped him land several odd jobs, one of them as a bouncer in a downtown nightclub. It was there that he received his introduction to wrestling.

"Barry Windham and Dustin

Rhodes came in one night, and they just couldn't believe how big I was," Diesel told me after that WCW card. "I hadn't been working out or anything, and I probably weighed about 350 or so. They told me to come down to the WCW offices for an interview and they'd do what they could to get me into wrestling. I figured I'd give it a shot."

When you're 6'10" and 356 pounds, you get people's attention. The scouts at WCW weren't nearly

had developed the necessary skills.

The monikers Diesel used bordered on the ludicrous. His first billing came as Oz; he dressed in a green cape and claimed to be "great and powerful." The only thing great and powerful about Oz were the bellows of laughter he drew from WCW fans.

"Man, that was ... whew," Diesel recalled that night I spoke to him in New Jersey. "That was awful."

By the time we had met, he had been re-created. This time he was Vinnie Vegas, a wise guy in a pink suit and sunglasses. His skills had improved enough to get the attention of manager Harley Race, who offered him dreams of titles and stardom. But Race was too involved with Big Van Vader. The big guy became part of the purge engineered by then WCW Vice President Bill Watts, and for the second time in his life, he was out of a sport before he had really gotten into it.

But for the second time in his life, he was rescued by Shawn Michaels, perhaps the best all-around wrestler in the world. Michaels felt he needed a bodyguard and promised big paychecks and training sessions in exchange for protection.

Well, you know the rest. Finally given a chance, Diesel didn't waste any time. On a Saturday night

in New York City, he completed his stunning metamorphosis from triviality to triumph. The big guy has finally reached the big time. And knowing where he has come from, you can bet he plans to stay there for a lot longer than eight seconds. □



After a (thankfully) brief period as Oz, Diesel assumed the name Vinnie Vegas and was managed by Harley Race in WCW. Very few fans know, however, that he was once a decent college basketball player and a bouncer in a nightclub.

as discerning as the NBA scouts and they put Diesel in an accelerated training program. Visions of dollar signs were dancing in the heads of promoters, who couldn't wait to get this giant into the ring. He was rushed into competition before he



*If you wish to
contribute to
Ellner's mailbag,
send your letters to:*

TOP ROPE

Box 1148

Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Dear Eddie,

Could you tell me more about Mike Anthony, who was rated number 399 in your latest "PW/500?" I met a Mike Anthony recently and was wondering if it was the same one. He was a very talented wrestler and an all-around wonderful person.

SPRING BUNNEL

Memphis, TN

Dear Spring,

First of all, it is not my "PW/500." I have nothing to do with that insane laundry list. What I can tell you about Mike Anthony the wrestler is this: Rating him number 399 was a generous move by the editors of this magazine. You and Shane must shake this unhealthy infatuation

(Continued on page 60)

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

form of divine intervention. Since I'm guessing that you're only a teenager, this is God's gentle way of saying, "Thou shalt not reproduce." A merciful God He is, indeed.

A NEW STRATEGY this month. Rather than painstakingly sift through the mail as I usually do, I decided to print the first six letters I opened, regardless of their contents. The sad thing is I can't tell the difference. Memo to new Republican administration: The country is sinking fast. Put all tax money into education and euthanasia. For a free mailing list of where to start the latter reform, write me in care of this magazine.

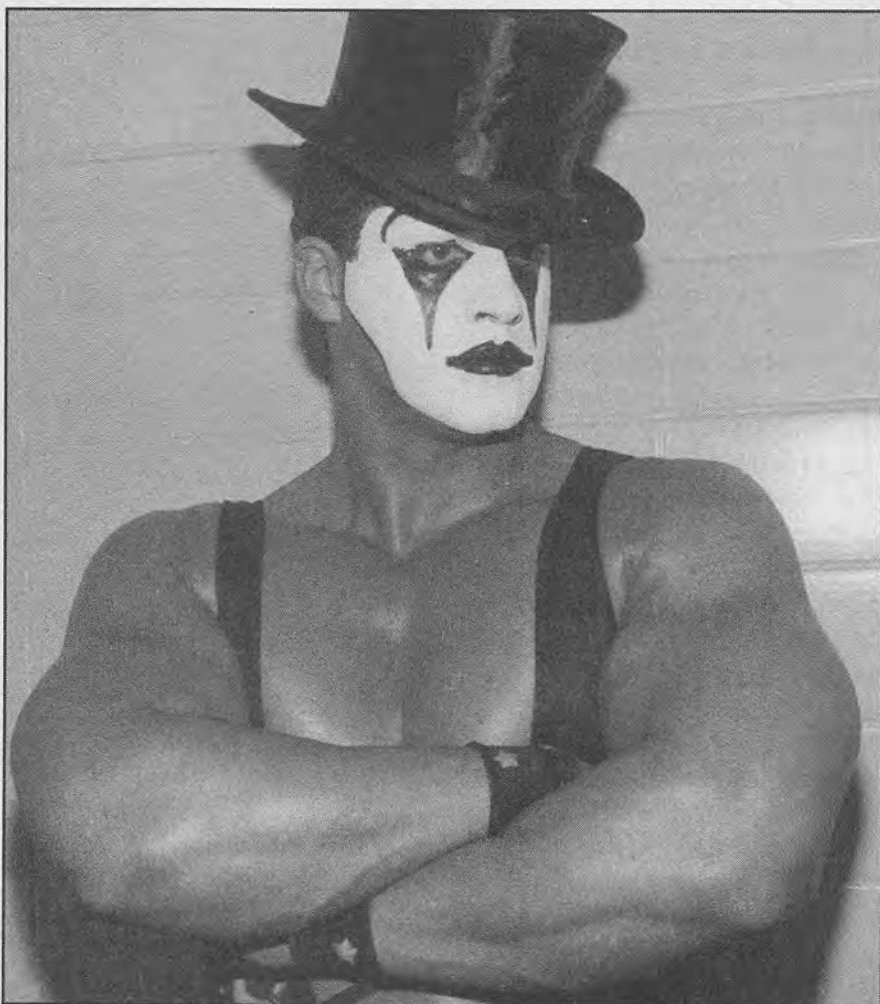
Dear Eddie,

I would like to find out more about The Spellbinder. The first time I saw him in the USWA, he gave me hot flashes and put a spell on me. Can you please let him know he has a fan?

SHANE SPELL
Waynesboro, GA

Dear Shane,

Those hot flashes indicate the early warning signs of menopause—in your case, Shane, a



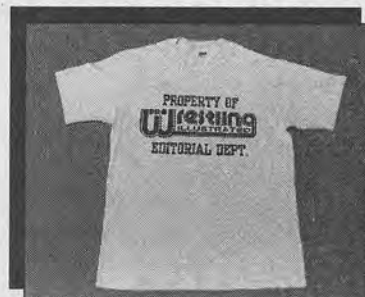
Imagine my excitement when a fan wrote to tell me The Spellbinder had put a spell on him. Fans' obsession with mediocre wrestlers never ceases to amaze me. Needless to say, I'm staying as far away from that fan as I can.

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If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next \$100 winner!

What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?

- 1) Capt. Lou Albano
- 2) The Grand Wizard
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Arnold Skaaland

Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger *not* defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?

- 1) Nikita Koloff
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Michael Hayes
- 4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.

- 1) True
- 2) False

How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?

- 1) Airplane crash
- 2) Ring injury
- 3) Automobile accident
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins Nov 1, 1994, and runs through January 31, 1995. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$100 winner. From Nov 1, 1994, until January 31, 1995, a total of 9 PWI T-shirts (retail value \$19.95 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

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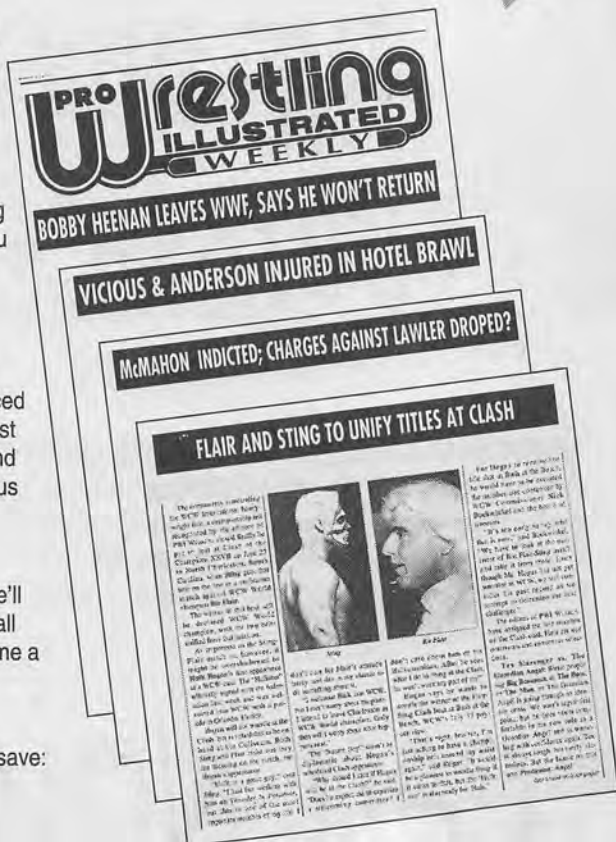
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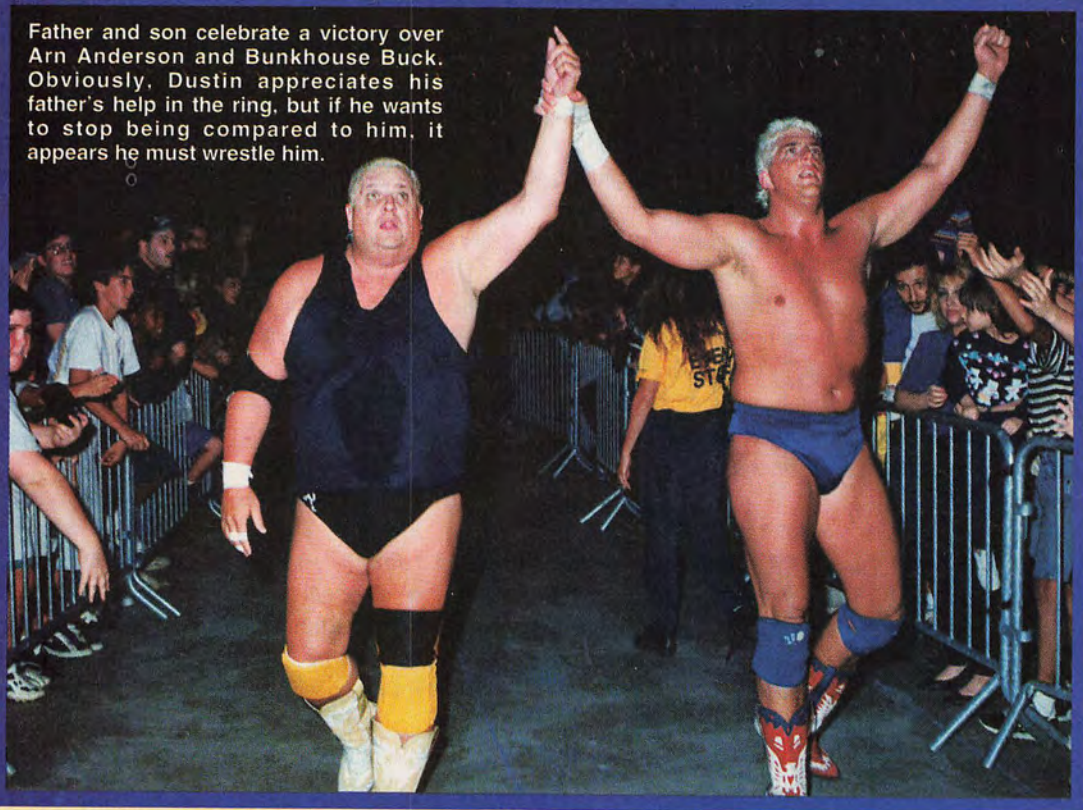
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FEUD FOR THOUGHT:

Father and son celebrate a victory over Arn Anderson and Bunkhouse Buck. Obviously, Dustin appreciates his father's help in the ring, but if he wants to stop being compared to him, it appears he must wrestle him.



DUSTY VS. DUSTIN?!

Dustin Rhodes has made a name for himself in WCW. Unfortunately, he shares that name with his father, who isn't quite ready to give it up. A battle between them would be only "Natural"

Photos by Duane Long

By Chris Bernucca

THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, Dustin Rhodes has had his share of tough opponents. He has wrestled just about everyone in WCW, from Steve Austin and Larry Zbyszko to Arn Anderson and Big Van Vader, with varying degrees of success. He has won singles and tag team titles and has shown his mettle of honor to his fellow fan favorites.

Deep down, though, "The Natural" knows he has yet to face his toughest opponent. Although it is a foe that has stalked him since his debut in 1988, Rhodes has yet to accept the challenge.

The irony of the situation is that many observers believe that Dustin would easily defeat his nemesis. However, that is exactly the outcome that Dustin does not want.

So Dustin continues to take matches against the Austins, Zbyszkos, and Andersons, knowing that it is impossible to get a three-count against a shadow. The longer he ducks his nemesis, though, the larger the shadow becomes, making it evident that he no longer has a choice in the matter.

Dustin Rhodes must wrestle his father!

"I don't think he has a choice anymore," said Erik Watts, who knows a little something about being held to a standard established by his father. "He's beaten just about everybody, and he just keeps getting better. Pretty soon, he's going to run out of opponents. His dad doesn't make it any easier for him by making these comebacks. At least by the time I started wrestling, my father was retired. But I still felt the pressure to do well, because I knew I would be compared to him."

"It would be an enormous attraction," said broadcaster Gene Okerlund. "With some of the family feuds going on in the sport right now, it could be the perfect time. I think it could headline a pay-per-view event, even without a title on the line."

The son disagrees.

Yes, that's true. However, Bill Watts showed no interest in returning to the ring when he was named executive vice president of the federation in 1992, a post he held for a year. In fact, his son was nothing more than a green rookie during his father's occupancy at CNN Center.

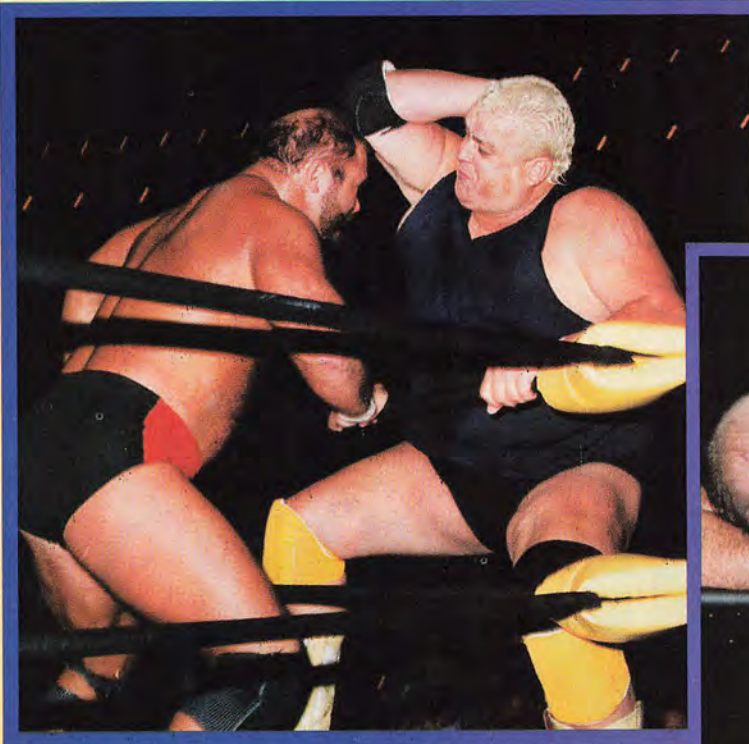
The situation surrounding the Rhodes family is far more intriguing. Dustin is a six-year veteran and clearly one of the top wrestlers in WCW. His father Dusty, a three-time NWA World champion and one of the most charismatic forces in the history of wrestling, has never left the sport for good. His role as a WCW talent scout had kept him close to the action and, in recent years, he took off the jacket and donned the tights several times.

Maybe too many times.

At the crux of the matter is why the elder Rhodes has returned to the ring. It could be purely for financial reasons, because Dusty understands his drawing power and the importance of keeping the promotion a successful one. Or it could be that Dusty—who has never been one to shy away from the lime-light—resents his son's growing popularity and is intent on stealing some of the thunder.

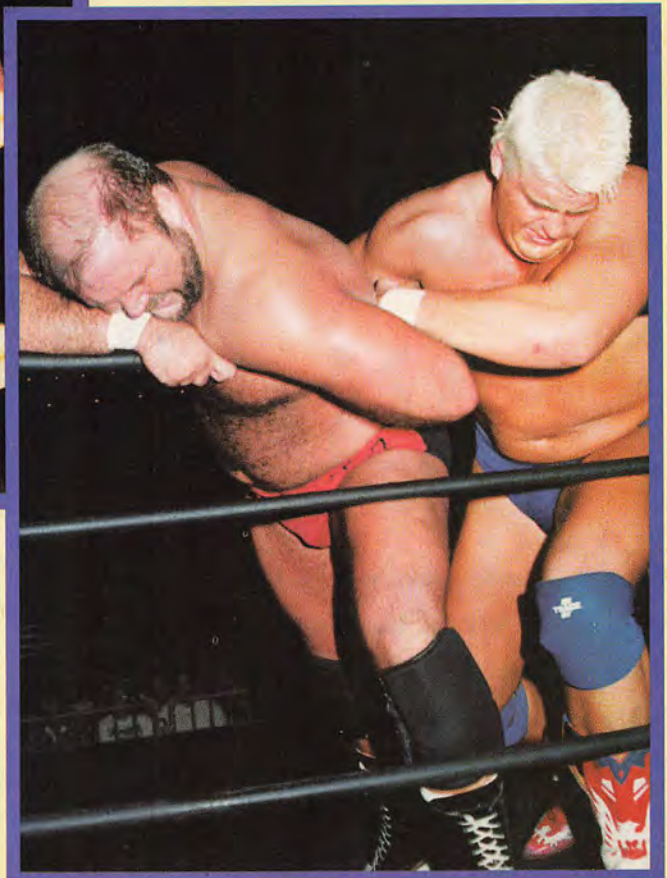
"That's plain crazy," the father said after a recent match in Florida. "You guys are in the wrong line of work, baby. You should be shrinks instead of writers. Just hear me out on this one, if you will. If I was jealous of all the attention and accolades my son gets, why would I be teaming with him? Wouldn't it be better for me to wrestle against him?"

"If I beat him, then it would take him down a couple notches, and that's the last thing I want to do to



Dusty took care of Anderson with a "bionic" elbowsmash (above) in this match, while Dustin controlled him with a hammerlock (right). Some suggest Dusty is trying to steal the spotlight from his son by continuing his comeback. Dustin isn't buying that theory.

"I don't see the interest or the urgency that everyone else does in having me wrestle my father," Rhodes said. "I'd have nothing to gain by beating him and I would probably end up hurting the person who is the main reason I am where I am today. When Erik became a pro wrestler, nobody wanted to see him wrestle his father."



my boy," he added. "I want Dustin to win it all, so we can both say we won world titles in this wonderful sport. That would be positively supernatural, baby."

In defense of "The American Dream," his returns to the ring have mostly been tag team efforts with his son as his partner. The duo recently defeated Arn Anderson and Bunkhouse Buck and were very appreciative of each other following the victory.

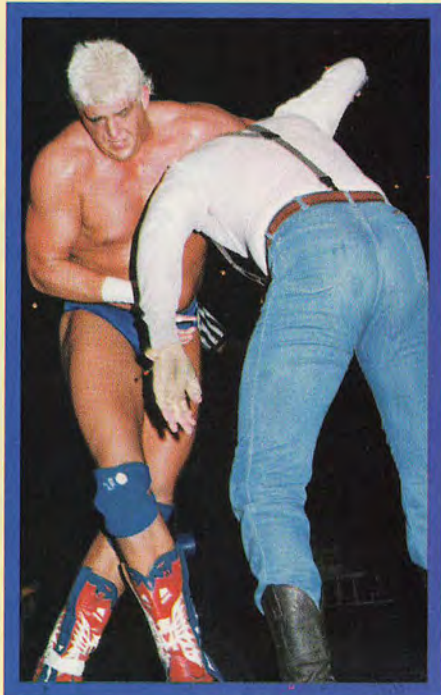
There are those who believe Dustin doesn't need to wrestle his father. His supporters point to his tag team titles he won with Rick Steamboat and Barry Windham, his victory over Rick Rude for the U.S. heavyweight title, and the class in which he carries himself as an unwavering fan favorite. There is no doubt that whatever Dustin has achieved as a wrestler, he has done

mostly on his own.

However, as long as Dusty continues his intermittent returns to the ring, he will cast a shadow over his talented son. Recent feuds between brothers have generated plenty of excitement in the WWF (Harts), USWA (Gilberts), and WCW (Sullivans). A battle between father and son would take WCW to a level not yet explored by any promoters.

It is pretty obvious that Dustin Rhodes has no choice. In order to be fully accepted as his own man, he has to wrestle his father. By doing so, he would get rid of his career-long nemesis. A Dusty-Dustin feud would allow both men to take their rightful place in the sport. You can't run from your shadow. Sooner or later, Dustin Rhodes has to meet his maker. □

After struggling early on in a feud with Buck, Dustin has thoroughly dominated the roughhouse brawler. What promoter, however, wouldn't like to sign a match between him and his legendary father?

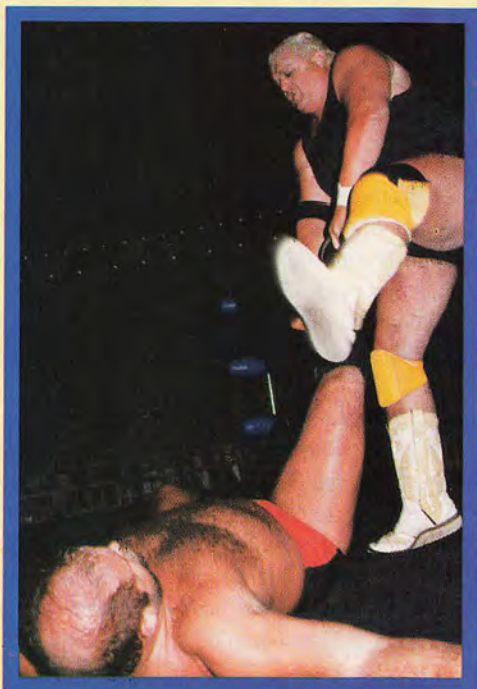


Dustin has beaten Anderson many times during the last few months, he is confident that he can come back from any disadvantage. He is widely regarded as one of WCW's best all-around wrestlers and if he dominated a feud with Dusty, he would certainly be in line for title shots.



One punch from Dusty is enough to send "The Enforcer" crashing to the mat. Would it be enough to do the same to Dustin. For now, father and son want no parts of a feud, but down the road, anything is possible.

It's a testament to the ability and determination of Dusty that he still can wrestle so well against top-notch competition like Anderson. Deep down, however, Dustin must resent his father's comebacks at least a little.





Candido leapfrogs Tracey Smothers en route to winning the NWA title. Though Tammy Fytch interfered in the bout, Candido makes no apologies about how he won. He says he and his manager do whatever it takes to succeed.

CHRIS CANDIDO

WHEN CHRIS CANDIDO won the NWA title in a tournament on November 19 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, one of the first things he did was hoist Tammy Fytch, his manager, onto his shoulders. As they paraded around the ring, everyone knew this: Candido had become an important player in the wrestling game, and Fytch was a big reason for it.

Not long ago, Candido, a 5'8", 226-pound native of Carteret, New Jersey, was known as a crybaby. When things didn't go his way, he'd whine and blame everyone but himself. Not surprisingly, he wasn't making much career progress.

Then he hooked up with Fytch and Brian Lee. After he and Lee won the Smoky Mountain tag team title, Candido stopped crying. He finally seemed ready to fulfill his potential. When they lost the belts to The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Fytch fired Lee and found Candido a new partner: Boo Bradley.

Candido, however, wasn't only interested in tag team competition. He wanted a singles championship. He received his opportunity when he was invited to compete in the NWA title tournament.

Candido wrestled magnificently, but still needed interference from Fytch to defeat Tracey Smothers, an SMW rival, in the finals. Shortly after his controversial victory, Candido was interviewed by Managing Editor David Lenker and Senior Writers Dave Rosenbaum and Andy Rodriguez.

LENKER: Needless to say, Chris, there's a great tradition associated with the title you now hold. Thesz, Rogers, Flair—they are legends. How do you feel being in such company?

CANDIDO: Those men were legends, all right—legends in their time. This is a new time. It's my time now. I may have only just won this belt, but my intention is to surpass every one of those guys and become the best there ever was. I think I'm off to a great start.

ROSENBAUM: Here are some other men who held the NWA title: Yvon Robert, Bill Longson, Tommy Rich...

CANDIDO: What are you saying?

ROSENBAUM: That winning the NWA title is no guarantee of immortality, or even of a lengthy title reign. You could just as easily become a footnote in history.

CANDIDO: You got some nerve comparing me with those people! I knifed through that NWA tournament like it was nobody's business. Everybody they put in my way I took care of with no problem. Now I have the belt around my waist, and you come in here and imply that I'm a flash in the pan? **Unbelievable! Absolutely unbelievable!**

RODRIGUEZ: Your path to the title wasn't as impressive as you depict it. You pinned Smothers only after you smashed him with a chain. Would you call that conduct becoming an NWA champion?

CANDIDO: I call it conduct becoming a winner, pal! You don't see this belt around Tracey Smothers' waist, do you? It belongs to Chris Candido. I'm not about to make any apologies for what happened. The opportunity presented itself, and I took advantage of it. That's what all the great champions do.

LENKER: Smothers said if he gets a rematch and you don't have Fytch in your corner, he'll win the title.

CANDIDO: I'd expect him to say that. That's how a sore loser talks. He's jealous because I have an excellent manager—a woman who really knows what she's doing. I give her all the credit in the world for the job she's done. I was always one of the best wrestlers around, but she took me to a new level. Smothers wishes he had her on his side. I'd gladly take him on without Tammy around. On the other hand, why should I? I'm the NWA champion of the world! I'm the one who should be setting the conditions, not him. Yeah, he'll get his rematches, but they'll be on my terms.

ROSENBAUM: During the final against Smothers, Fytch tried to spray

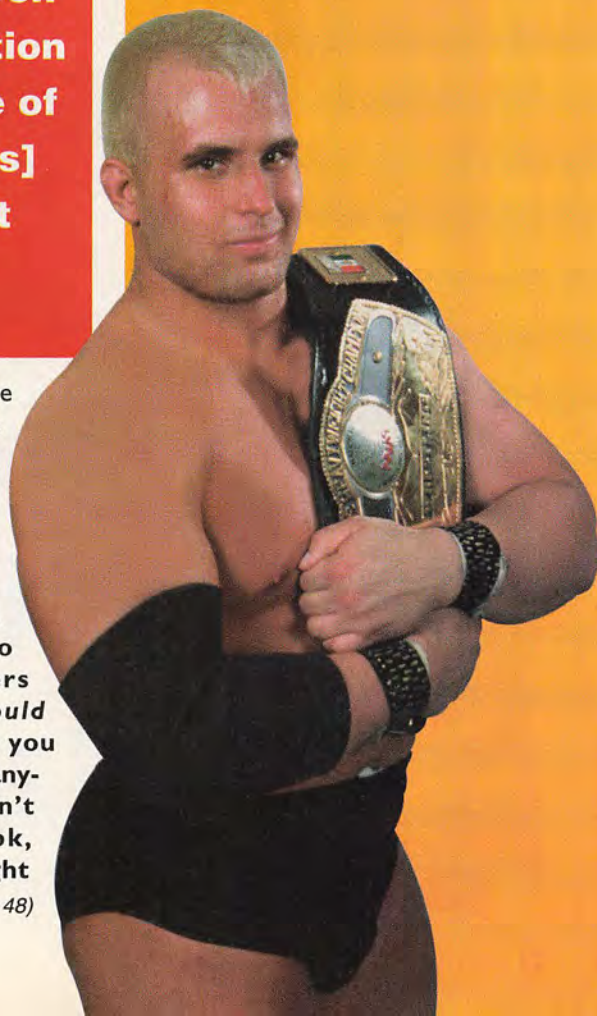
**"It's my time now.
I may have only just won
this belt, but my intention
is to surpass every one of
those [NWA champions]
and become the best
there ever was."**

hair spray at Smothers. Are those the kind of tactics that are helping you be all that you can be?

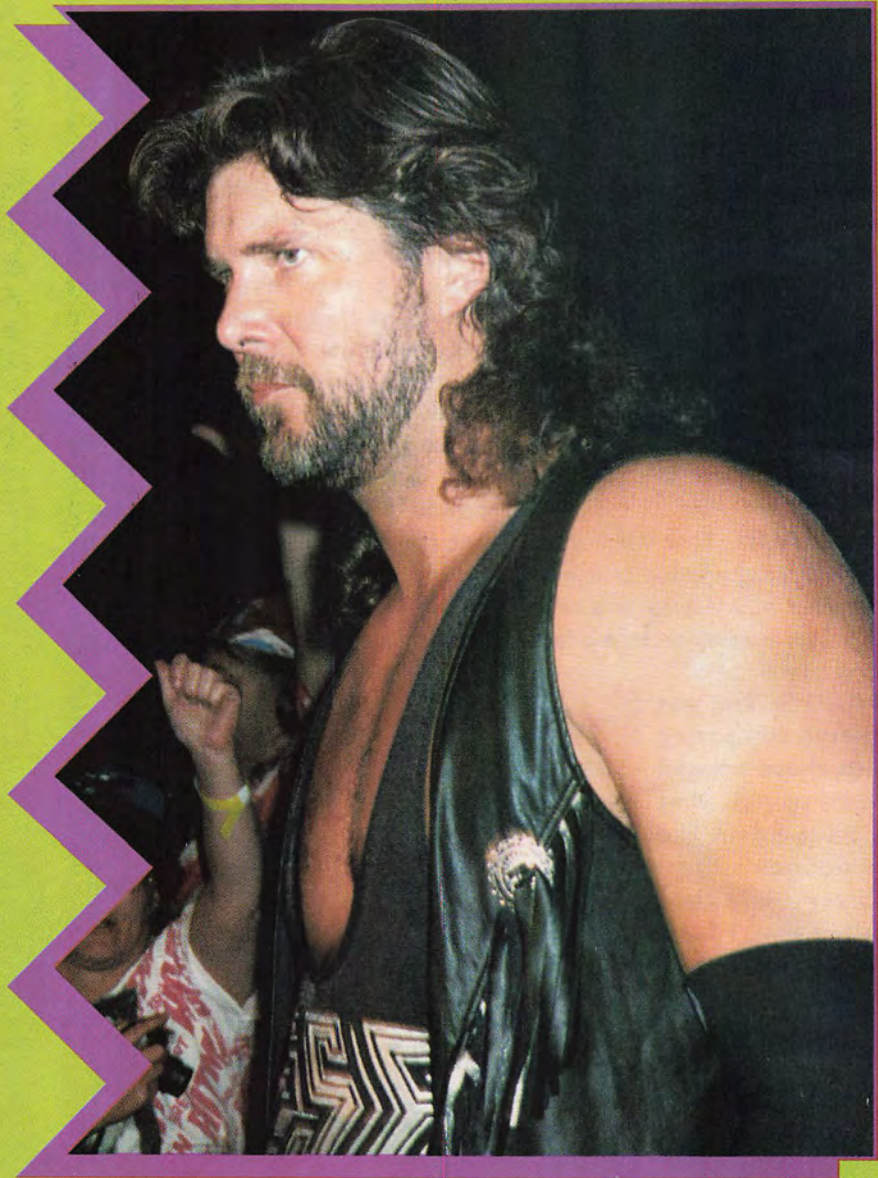
CANDIDO: Tammy is like me: She does whatever needs to be done, without making apologies. That's how we've been so successful. Smothers knows—at least he *should* know—that in this sport you have to be prepared for anything. He obviously wasn't that night. I was. Look, Smothers could've brought

(Continued on page 48)

**Every issue, reporters
from PRO WRESTLING
ILLUSTRATED will
participate in an
incisive press
conference with a top
wrestling star. The
questions will be
demanding. And the
answers will reveal
the innermost
thoughts of the
giants of the sport.**



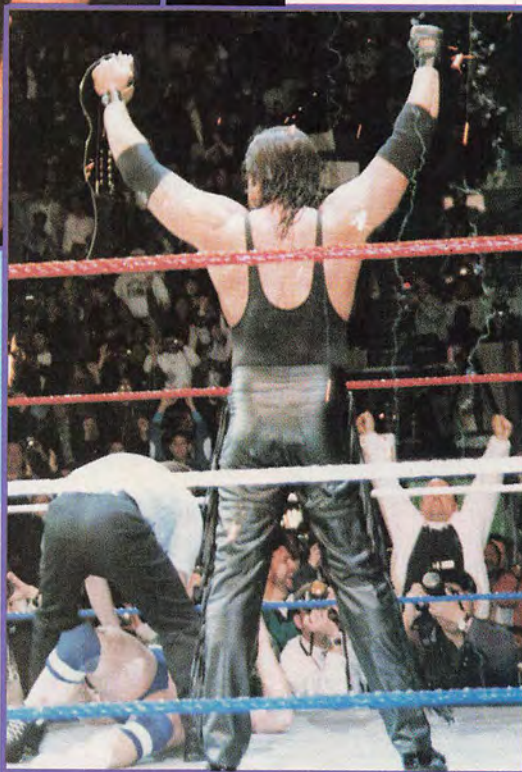
DIESEL DAZED!



Why He Can't Handle The Pressure Of Being WWF Champ



Bob Backlund entered Madison Square Garden a confident champion (above). He left beaten and humiliated (right) after he was destroyed in eight seconds by Diesel. It was a night that changed Diesel's life forever.



By Dave Rosenbaum

TWO DAYS AFTER his WWF World title reign started, Diesel rose from a fitful night's sleep, walked into his bathroom, and peered into the mirror. The image that stared back at him was shocking. It didn't look like a champion. It looked like a confused big man who didn't know where to step next.

There have been many days like that for Diesel. Since winning the WWF World title, Diesel has constantly wondered where to turn next, what to do next, and how to conduct his affairs. A WWF official shoves a contract in front of him and Diesel doesn't know where to sign. Officials discuss his promotional schedule with him and Diesel feels as if they're speaking a foreign language.

In a way, they are.

Then Diesel steps into the ring for a title defense and he feels even more lost than before. Although he has held both the Intercontinental title and the WWF World tag team title, being champion by himself, without Shawn Michaels at his side, is a new experience.

A scary experience.

One he isn't fit to handle.

Diesel simply can't deal with the demands, the financial equations, and the pressures. Worst of all, the emotional impact of his split with Michaels is bringing him down.

Poor Diesel is in no mental condi-

Diesel's victory over Bob Backlund for the WWF World title shocked the wrestling world—and Diesel himself, who now must deal with the demands of being the WWF's top man

tion to be WWF World champion, and the entire federation knows it.

"He's lucky if he lasts through February," said one rulebreaker.

"Sure, he's big and strong, but that's not going to help him that much."

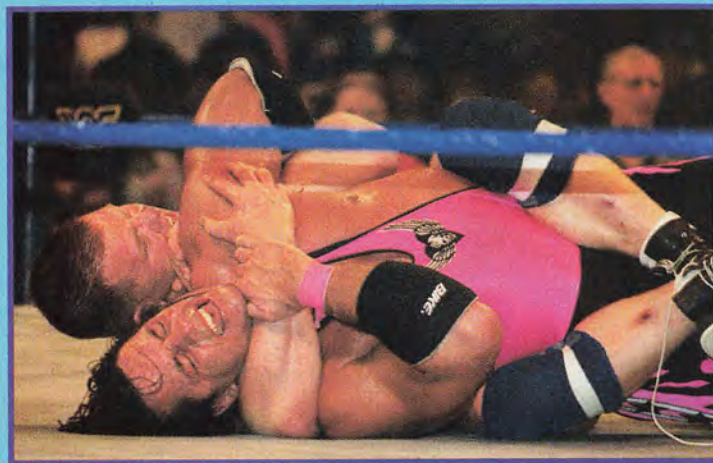
The situation can be compared to *The Candidate*, a 1972 movie in which

Robert Redford plays a politician's son. He has never been involved in politics, but he is convinced to run for the U.S. Senate. His opponent is

WHAT'S NEXT, MR. BACKLUND?

IT WAS TWO nights after he lost the WWF World title to Diesel at Madison Square Garden and five nights after he won the WWF World title from Bret Hart. Bob Backlund had a promise to make. Two promises, actually.

Sitting next to Vince McMahon during a *WWF Monday Night Raw* broadcast in Poughkeepsie, New York, Backlund vowed to regain the belt from Diesel.



Bret Hart couldn't escape Backlund's chicken wing.

Then he turned his attention to McMahon.

"Before I retire," Backlund said, "I'm going to procure the chicken wing on you." He walked away.

McMahon acted shocked, although he certainly can't be surprised that Backlund harbors some bitterness toward him. Backlund's failure to get a title shot at Hulk Hogan back in 1984 can be traced in part to McMahon's desire to push the "Hulkster" as the WWF's top star. He couldn't afford to have Hogan lose to Backlund, so he probably never worked very hard to get Backlund a rematch.

But McMahon doesn't have to worry about his neck

for a while. Backlund wants the title back, and is convinced he has far more talent than Diesel, even though he lost to him in eight seconds at the Garden.

Backlund had barely finished celebrating his improbable victory over Hart, which might have been the reason he lost to an inferior opponent. Backlund's win—and the circumstances surrounding it—will never be forgotten.

In this case, the ultimate deception by Owen Hart—he fooled his parents, Stu and Helen Hart—led to Bret's loss and Backlund's greatest victory since the early-1980s. Nobody knows what part Backlund played in Owen's deception, but just about anyone with a heart agreed with announcer Gorilla Monsoon's description of Owen's actions: despicable. The funny thing is that Backlund probably would have won the match without Owen's help.

With Davey Boy Smith, Bret's second, lying unconscious on the arena floor, Backlund had Bret tied up in the chicken wing for eight painful minutes. The champion's escape attempts were getting nowhere, and it was only a matter of time before Bret submitted or passed out.

That's when Owen put on the greatest act in WWF history. He made like he had a sudden change of heart about his feud with Bret. Then Owen turned for help to Stu and Helen, who were sitting at ringside. After several minutes of begging, Owen convinced a tearful Helen to throw in the towel for Bret.

Owen wasted no time tearing off his actor's mask of deception. He laughed his way back to the dressing room and called his brother a loser. If Backlund had any sense of reality, he'd have realized that Owen robbed him of a clean win. Backlund didn't seem to care.

The tale of the WWF World title had taken another shocking turn.

another lifelong politician, the seemingly invincible Crocker Jarman. The Redford character's father doesn't think he stands a chance.

But something incredible happens. Disgusted by Jarman's slimy ways and seduced by the liberal first-timer's good looks and idealism, the voters fall in love with the Redford character. He wins the election by a narrow margin.

The ending of the film is memorable. The supporters of the winning candidate are celebrating raucously in a hotel ballroom. The Redford character finds peace in an adjacent room. As the noise builds and the crowd shoves its way toward the winner, he mouths to his manager, "Now what do I do?"

That story somewhat parallels Diesel's situation. He came to the WWF as Michaels' bodyguard and never expected to be a top wrestler, no less a champion. One day after Survivor Series, Diesel realized his match the next night was for the World title. Then he won.

Now what do I do?

Bob Backlund has vowed to regain the belt. Don't bet against him. He has far more talent than Diesel, and is better equipped to handle the pressure. After all, his first World title reign lasted nearly six years.

Bret Hart would never let a fan favorite vs. fan favorite match stand in the way of him fighting for the World title.

Razor Ramon is a fan favorite and Intercontinental champion, and he has already feuded with Diesel. Here's one "Bad Guy" who won't settle for playing second-best.

Owen Hart would like nothing better than to win the World title. He couldn't win it from his brother, but he certainly could beat Diesel.

A lot of men want what Diesel is wearing. Many are more fit to wear the belt.

Diesel's time has come and gone before it even began. □



Diesel won—and eventually lost—the Intercontinental title to Razor Ramon in 1994. He handled himself well as I-C champ, but being WWF World champ—the top man in the federation—could be an entirely different story.

It's possible that Ramon could seek a shot at Diesel's World title at some point. Diesel's size and brawling skills take him a long way in the ring, but they won't help him with the mental strain that comes with being World champion.



When he was Shawn Michaels' bodyguard, Diesel let the "Heartbreak Kid" do the talking. Diesel can't stand the sight of his former mentor now. In time, he might realize how valuable Michaels was to him both in and out of the ring.



Other than the outcome, the Blayze-Nakano match in Tokyo was similar to their matches in North America. Alundra took a ton of punishment, including this brutal piledriver.

She couldn't have in North America what she had in Japan, so she sacrificed her belt and lost. But it was all worth it for Alundra Blayze, whose most memorable evening ended in the loss of her WWF World Women's title

By Dave Rosenbaum

ALUNDRA BLAYZE HAD waited for this moment all her life. For years, her efforts to revitalize women's wrestling in North America had fallen frustratingly short of the mark. Alundra hoped a spot on the WrestleMania X card would help her cause, but her WWF World Women's title defense against Lelani Kai was so one-sided that it wasn't very exciting.

Alundra's first big-time opponent, Bull Nakano, heated up the women's competition in the WWF, but it seemed like nobody noticed that their matches were the best on any card. Nobody noticed because when the women were announced, most people in the crowd headed for the restrooms or the concession stands. At least the WWF loved it;

women's wrestling was boosting souvenir sales.

But that was never what Alundra had in mind and it's why she didn't hesitate to put her title on the line at the end of an incredible 10-hour All-Japan Women's card in Tokyo that was attended by 43,000 screaming faithful.

So she waited (for more than nine hours), she wrestled, and she lost. There was no doubting how Nakano felt about her night's work. With the World title belt strapped around her waist and sweat dripping from her forehead, Nakano actually smiled.

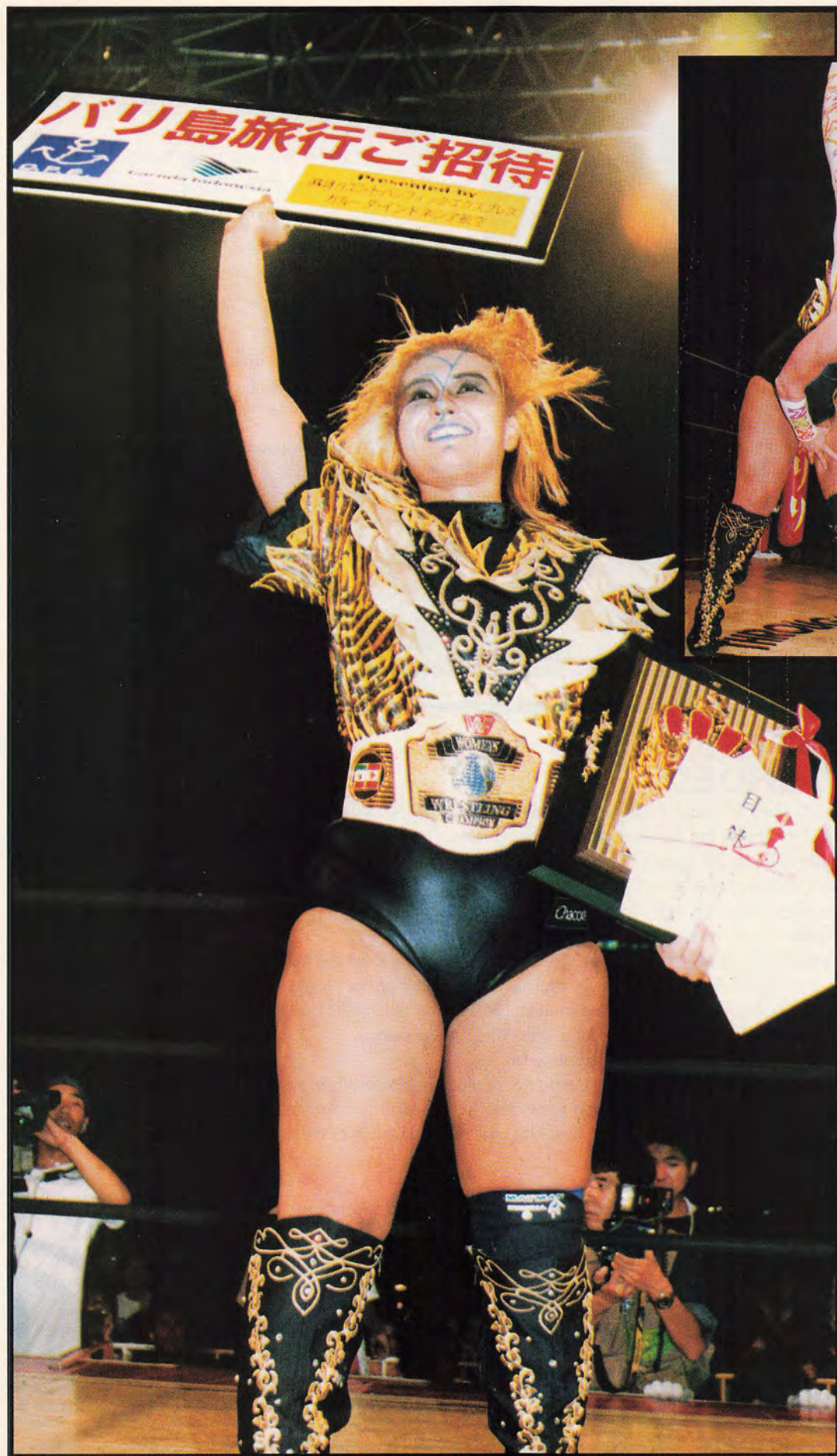
Admittedly, Alundra was facing less of a home crowd disadvantage than she might have had the match been held earlier in the card. After nine hours of yelling, most of the fans in the crowd were ready to go home; both Nakano and Blayze had lost a bit of their edge.

But Blayze's entrance rejuvenated the crowd. She was led to the

BULL-DOZED!

**Alundra
Dethroned
By Nakano
Before 43,000
In Tokyo**

Photos by Koichi Yoshizawa



Alundra was all but finished at this point. When Nakano puts all of her 200-plus pounds behind a bodyslam, it can be a very devastating maneuver.



Scary-looking ... brutal ... tough ... all these words can be used to describe Nakano, but she is also a sound technical wrestler. She had Blayze screaming in pain when she applied her version of a crucifix.



ring by 14 bikers on Harley-Davidson motorcycles carrying an American flag. The fans knew that if the Blayze-Nakano match was anything like their North American encounters, they were in for another special experience.

"You could feel the intensity building," said one Japanese sportswriter. "The crowd was tired, but they wanted to see more. Many people wanted to see the beautiful American superstar against the Japanese hero."

According to sources at the Tokyo Egg Dome, souvenir sales did not rise when Nakano and Blayze stepped into the ring. The sound of flushing toilets didn't drown out the ring



Akira Hokuto nails Aja Kong with a savate kick en route to winning the Five-Star tournament.

"THE GREATEST CARD I EVER ATTENDED!"

The date: November 27, 1994. The time: 11:50 p.m. A crowd of more than 43,000 wrestling fans is filing out of the Tokyo Egg Dome after one of the greatest cards in history. Ten hours. Twenty-three bouts. All a part of women's wrestling.

If such a scenario seems unlikely, remember, this is Japan, where wrestling is second only to baseball in popularity. After "Big Egg Wrestling Universe," as the card was named, there is still no greater star among Japanese women than Akira Hokuto. She won the Five-Star tournament against the greatest female wrestlers in the world and left the building crying and exhausted.

What a night! More than 43,000 fans paid a total of approximately \$4-million for tickets. A ringside seat went for \$300. Program sales topped \$600,000. A sound stage stretched from foul pole to foul pole in the baseball stadium.

This was more than a wrestling marathon. For the fans in attendance, it was heaven.

"It was the greatest card I ever attended," said one Japanese fan.

But Hokuto's victory over Kong in the final match crowned her as the champion of all female champions.

There were midgets, lightweights, tag teams, and even a few men. Retired wrestlers Jaguar Yokota and Bison Kimora battled Lioness Asuka and Yumi Ogura in a Legends Memorial Fight. Not until the 14th match of the night did the Five-Star tournament even begin.

By then, the crowd was sufficiently heated up.

"Nobody was ever bored," said *PWI* correspondent Koichi Yoshizawa. "Every subpar match was followed by a great match and the subpar matches didn't last long."

How could anyone could forget Blizzard Yuki-Mariko Yoshida? Yoshida came to the ring in a Jerry Lawler-like robe. Then four ninjas dressed like Yuki came out doing somersaults and backflips. At that point, a cage descended toward the ring and a stuffed mannequin dressed like Yuki fell to the canvas. Finally, the real Yuki came out from under the stage.

Could anything like this card ever happen in North America? Probably not. The same card with the same type of prematch hype would probably draw about 5,000 fans to Madison Square Garden. There'd be an echo in the Silverdome.

It's possible only in Japan, where wrestling is both King and Queen.

—Dave Rosenbaum

introductions.

"Alundra knew she was in for the biggest match of her life," said Koichi Yoshizawa, PWI's Japan correspondent. "She probably knew that Nakano was going to beat the life out of her, just as she had in most of their previous matches, and this time there wouldn't be a crowd to get her out of it. I think,

Maybe she was tired or maybe she didn't have enough of the 43,000 fans on her side, but Blayze's offensive flurry late in the bout couldn't carry her to victory. She returned to America a former champion.



however, that the excitement of the evening dulled the pain."

It was a typical Nakano-Blayze match, the difference being the outcome. Nakano dominated with a furious all-out assault while Blayze bided her time and tried to outsmart her Japanese rival. Blayze wanted to use her German waistlock suplex, but Nakano avoided it and mounted the top rope. She came down with a hard legdrop, and pinned Blayze at 9:27.

Now Nakano is the champion and she guaranteed there would be plenty of rematches when she told the media that she would be competing in North America until at least September 1995.

After once again being part of women's wrestling in Japan, Blayze might have wondered why anybody wouldn't want to stay. □

Blayze rolled out of the way of this top-rope legdrop, but the move did her in eventually. The trip to the Orient was still worth it for Alundra. She got to compete on the ultimate women's wrestling card.



Kevin Sullivan's Three Faces of Fear are focused on destroying Hulk Hogan—but they're just part of the feeding frenzy of grapplers eager beyond all reason for the chance to destroy "Hulkamania!"

"Let's Get Hogan!"

**MOB
VIOLENCE
GRIPS
WCW!**

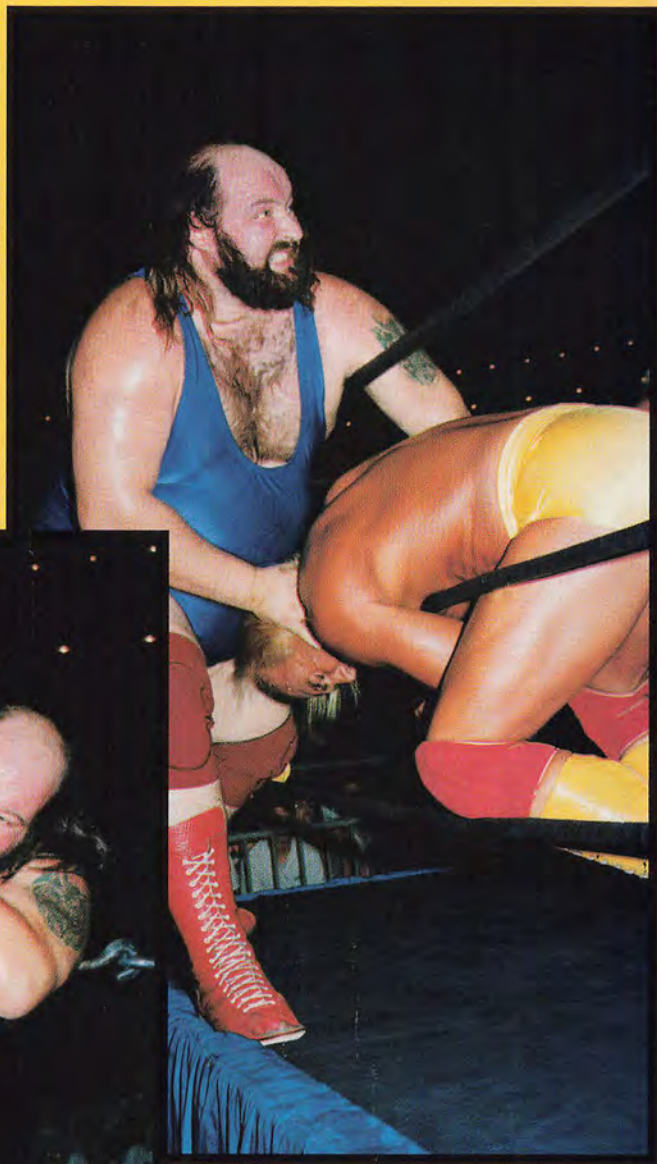


Photos by Duane Long

By Andy Rodriguez

"CRUSH! KILL! DESTROY! Crush! Kill! Destroy!" Avalanche repeated the deadly words over and over again. He was watching an episode of *Lost In Space*, the popular 1960s science-fiction series. Those words were being repeated over and over again by a robot designed to make life miserable for the Robinson family.

"That's what we're gonna do to Hogan," said Avalanche, who knew the "Hulkster" all too well when he faced him as Earthquake in the WWF. "Crush him! Destroy him! Make him realize that coming to WCW was the worst thing he ever



Avalanche was happy to take Sullivan up on his offer to come to WCW to help him destroy Hogan. The intimidating 504-pounder had a major feud with Hogan in the WWF and is still upset that he wasn't able to drive him out of wrestling.

Hulk Hogan appears helpless as Brutus Beefcake and Avalanche double-team him. It will only get worse for the "Hulkster" if Kevin Sullivan recruits more of Hogan's former enemies to join his sadistic mob.

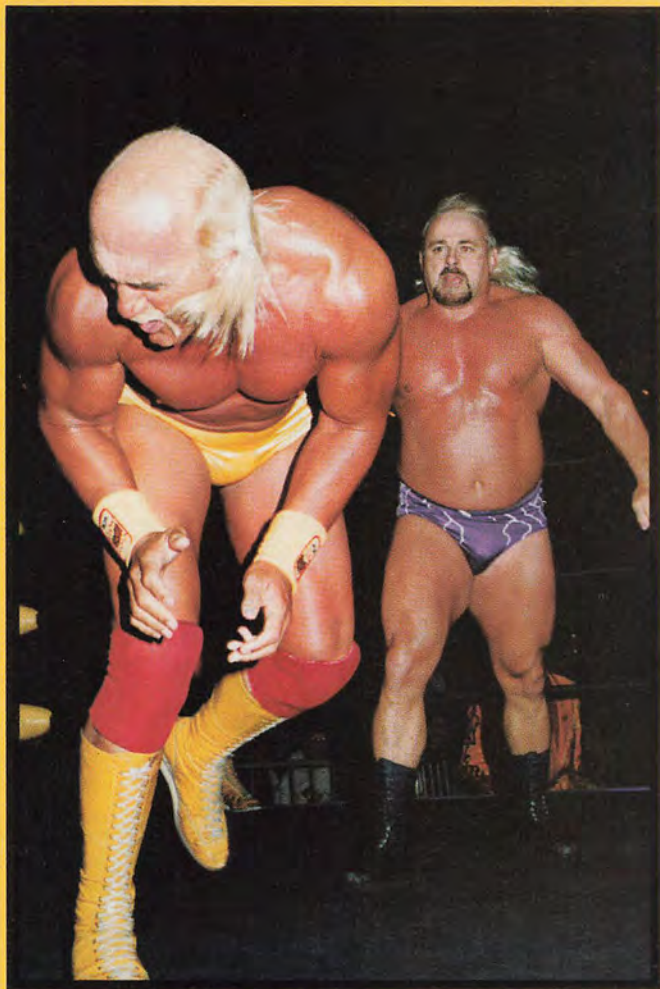
did!" As Avalanche watched the TV show, Kevin Sullivan watched Avalanche. The veteran looked at the burly behemoth the way a proud father looks at his child. Sullivan was a happy man.

"What you're seeing here today," Sullivan crowed to the

visitor, "is the beginning of the end of Hulk Hogan. The time has come. All the cards are falling into place. Hogan is trapped. In the past he's been lucky, but this time, there isn't any way for him to escape. This time Hulk Hogan is mine!"

It's no surprise that Sullivan is sending a boatload of bile Hogan's way. For 10 years, Sullivan has badmouthed the "Hulkster" continuously. He despised the whole image Hogan projected. He couldn't stand the fact that, for so many people, Hulk Hogan was professional wrestling.

However, Sullivan was in no position to act upon his hatred. While Hogan was starring in the WWF, Sullivan



After a decade of badmouthing Hogan every chance he got, Kevin Sullivan finally encountered Hogan in 1994. He hates everything Hulk stands for and will even bring in people he himself hates if they want to help destroy "Hulkamania."

competed in WCW, the NWA, and on the independent circuit. All the time, he dreamed of the day he could squash "Hulkamania."

"He was damned near obsessed with Hogan," said former tag team partner Steve Williams. "Oh, sure, he had his feuds, and he was serious about them, but Hogan was never far from his thoughts."

Sullivan's dream—to get his hands on Hogan in any way possible—moved dramatically closer to becoming reality when the "Hulkster" signed with WCW in mid-1994.

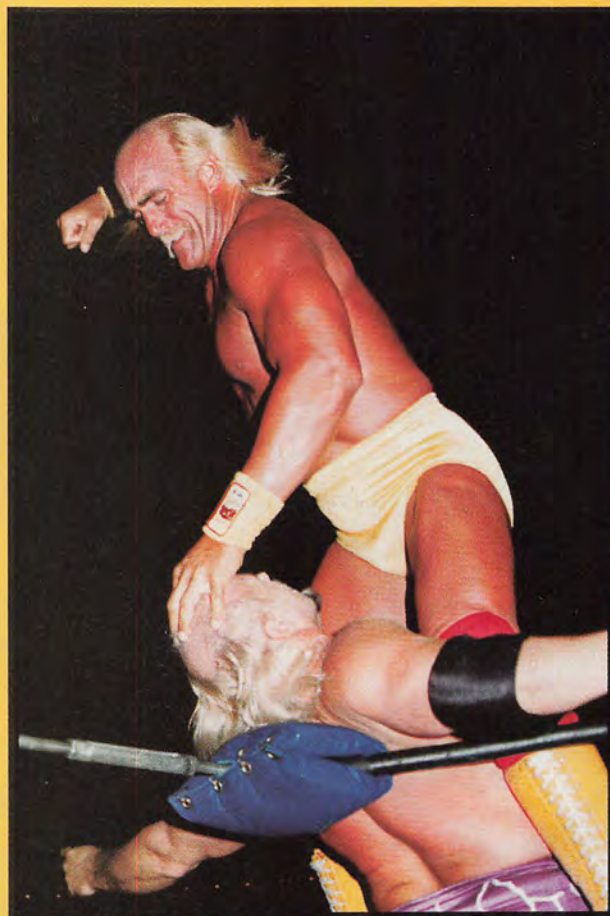
"I'd waited for 10 years," said Sullivan, recalling the moment he learned Hogan was en route to WCW. "I knew the waiting was about to end. All I needed was a good plan."

For Sullivan, the plan was simple: Assemble a group of wrestlers who hated Hogan as venomously as he did, then sic them

on him with full force.

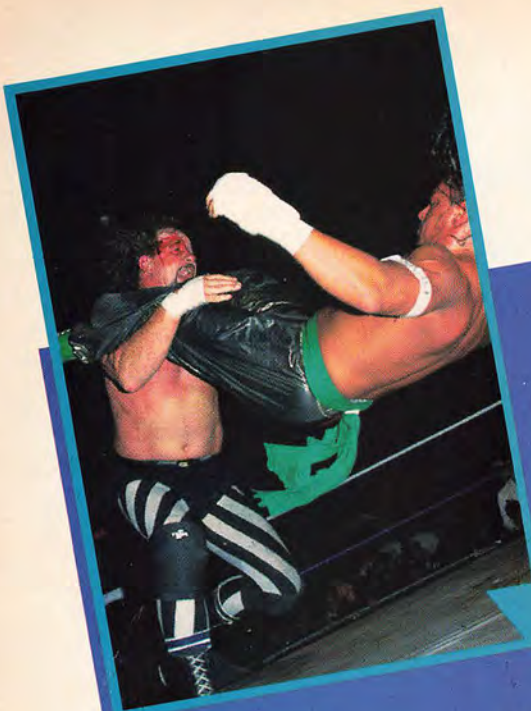
The plan got off to a rotten start: Sullivan's first recruit in his personal war against Hogan was his own brother, Dave, who had no appetite for destruction. There's good reason for that: Dave is a huge "Hulkamaniac."

(Continued on page 54)



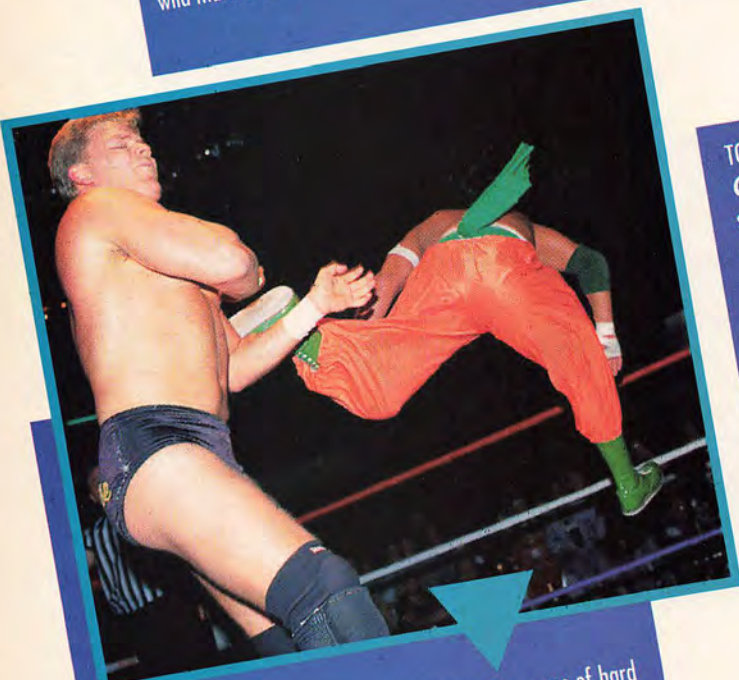
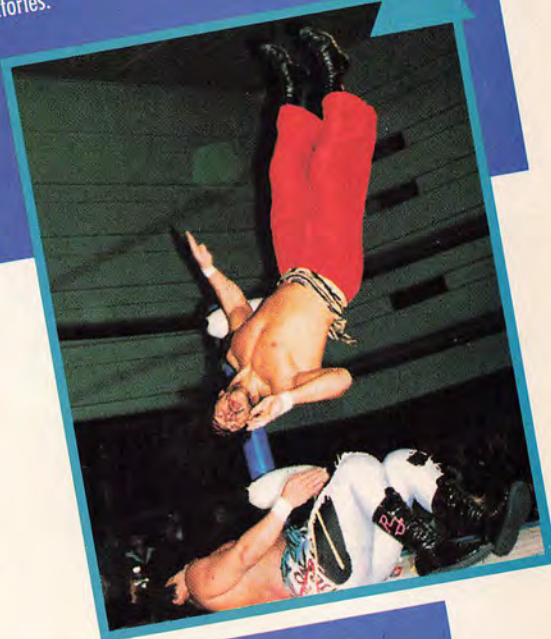
A couple of right hands is all Hogan needs to send Sullivan reeling when he gets him one-on-one. If Sullivan gets his wish, however, Hogan might have an army of angry wrestlers—not just The Three Faces of Fear—after him.





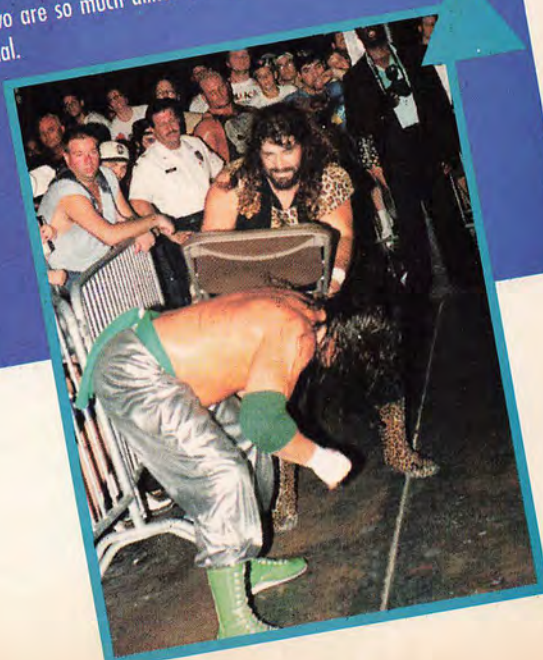
MOST HATED OPPONENT
Terry Funk. Who would have thought one of the hottest feuds in the country would pit a 50-year-old warrior against a young upstart from India? But it happened in 1993-94. They battled in match after match in ECW and other independents around the country. Every one of their wild matches was ultra-violent, ultra-bloody, and ultra-hardcore.

FAVORITE MANEUVER
The moonsault. Sure, this thrilling top-rope maneuver, performed with the wrestler's back to his opponent, has become a fairly common move in wrestling. But Sabu's version is anything but common. For one, he reaches incredible heights before crashing down onto a fallen foe. And he's willing to perform it not only on other wrestlers, but also onto wooden tables! It's how Sabu celebrates his victories.



GREATEST MATCH
vs. Shane Douglas, October 2, 1993. After years of hard work in independent federations and in Japan, Sabu broke through by beating a talented, established wrestler for the ECW heavyweight title. "The Franchise" has proven to be one of Sabu's toughest opponents, but Sabu wrestled the match of his life on this night. Douglas desperately tried to hold on to the belt, but Sabu was too determined.

TOUGHEST OPPONENT
Cactus Jack. When these two madmen met for the first time this summer, it was one of the most anticipated battles in years. Sabu won, but he got the battle of his life. They have met numerous times since. Among the weapons Sabu and Jack have used against each other: chairs, tables, bottles, canes, and a popcorn machine. Maybe the reason Sabu has such a tough time with Jack is that the two are so much alike: daring, reckless ... even borderline suicidal.





PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED

SABU

**Wrestling's Natural
Born Killer**



close-up:

SABU

SABU IS, WITHOUT question, one of the most exciting and daring wrestlers in the world ... The high-flying superstar from Bombay, India, routinely performs moonsaults onto press tables and will try any aerial move at any time onto practically any surface ... The 6', 215-pounder is a protege of The Sheik, one of the wildest and craziest wrestlers of all-time ... But the only similarities between the two men are an incredible killer instinct and an unmatched will to win ... Sheik was a scratching, clawing, eye-gouging brawler; Sabu is an aerial artist ... Biggest influences on him growing up were his mother and The Sheik ... "I owe my career to this man," Sabu once said of Sheik ... Dreamed at any early age of becoming a world champion. The dream hasn't been realized—yet ... Started wrestling seriously in seventh grade, when he joined the junior high team ... From that point on, everything in his life was geared toward becoming a pro wrestler

... Nearly quit wrestling in eighth grade because he didn't like the amateur side of the sport, but decided to stick with it ... Kept getting better and better ... Was shot in the teeth at a graduation party and couldn't eat solids for months ... When he got out of the hospital, Sabu dedicated himself even more to wrestling ... Started training with weights to build his upper body ... Built a ring in his home and trained to become a professional wrestler ... Six months later, he told Sheik he wanted to turn pro ... Sheik decided to train the eager youngster ... Trained and worked out for nearly two years before making his professional debut ... Credits Sheik with teaching him the finer points of wrestling ... Taught himself the aerial moves for which he has become almost legendary ... Sheik brought Sabu to the U.S. for the first time in 1984 and put him to work as his personal assistant ... That was followed by six months of intense training, which included two minutes of standing on hot coals after every mistake ... The key moment in

his early career came when he wrestled his sadistic mentor ... Sabu had no idea who his opponent would be on that night and was stunned when he looked across the ring and saw Sheik ... Sabu was equal to the violent task and Sheik decided Sabu was ready to turn pro and carry on his tradition ... Fans were stunned as the slender youngster methodically dismantled The Canadian Road Warrior at the Hamtramc Arena in Detroit in 1985 ... Sabu hasn't lost many matches since that night and has dominated U.S. independent federations ... "I can beat my opponents two ways. I can rip them apart with my teeth and fingernails, or I can fly through the air and dismantle them," Sabu said through an interpreter. "Either way, I'm a winner" ... In 1992, Sheik and Sabu ripped apart the Frontier Martial Arts Federation, destroying every wrestler who stood in their path ... FMW has been Sabu's home federation in Japan ... Received an offer to wrestle in the WWF in 1993, but turned it down because his WWF schedule would have conflicted with his Japanese

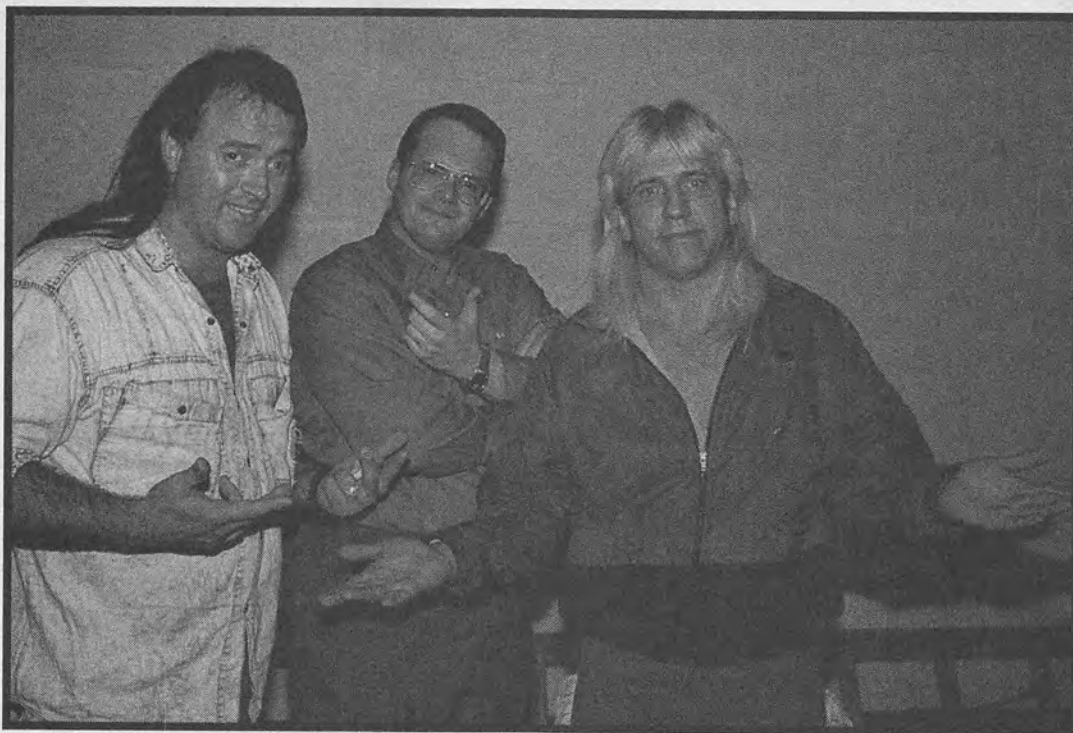
commitments ... Sabu insists he will be true to himself and never sell out for money ... On June 25, 1992, The Sheik won the FMW title from Mr. Onita. On the same card, Sabu teamed with The Gladiator and The Snatcher and lost to Tarzan Goto, Mr. Gannosuke, and Asako Sambo ... It was an embarrassing evening for Sabu ... After bouncing around independent federations in the U.S. for several years, Sabu finally made his big splash in ECW in 1993. On October 1 of that year, he pinned Tasmaniac ... Tasmaniac demanded a rematch later in the card and lost again ... Sabu shocked the fans by dragging a press table into the ring and performing eight moonsaults from the top rope onto the table ... Took on Paul E. Dangerously as his manager ... Battled Chris Candido in "Bensalem Bash '93" in suburban Philadelphia ... Pinned

Candido in a thrilling match, despite Tammy Fytch's interference ... Afterward, Tasmaniac attacked

Sabu ... Scored the biggest victory of his career on October 2, 1993, by pinning Shane Douglas for the ECW heavy-weight championship ... Sabu overcame the interference of Sherri Martel, who seconded Douglas ... Added another title to his resume on November 13, 1993, when he pinned Terry Funk for the ECW TV title ... It was a tag team match with the stipulation that the belt could change hands if Sabu pinned Funk ... The violent, no-holds-barred atmosphere of ECW proved to be perfectly suited to Sabu's reckless style ... The "Holiday Hell" card on December 26, 1993, in Philadelphia proved to be Sabu's undoing, as he lost the heavy-weight title to Funk in a no-disqualification match ... Douglas hit Sabu on the head from behind and Funk scored the pin ... Pinned Mike Awesome to retain the TV belt on March 5, 1994 ... But the following

night, Sabu lost that championship to longtime rival Tasmaniac ... Battled the equally wild Cactus Jack for the first time on June 24 at ECW Arena ... When 911 dragged Jack to a table set up outside the ring barrier, Sabu scaled the ropes and performed an incredible moonsault that carried him over the ring railing ... Dangerously finally used his cellular phone to smash Cactus, leading to the pin ... The two men continued battling throughout the arena for 10 minutes ... Shattered two more wooden tables when he defeated J.T. Smith in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania ... Suffered a right shoulder injury and cracked a vertebra during a match against Chris Benoit on November 5, 1994 ... Sabu is currently trying to unseat ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas and is also teaming regularly with Tasmaniac, with whom he now has a tenuous alliance ... The matches against Douglas have been exciting and violent ... Also a major star in Michigan-based Motor City Wrestling, where he has had many great matches against Al Snow, among others ... Sabu figures to be one of the top superstars of the late-1990s—if he lasts that long!





Hell Freezes Over!

JIM CORNETTE MANAGES THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

Once again, Jim Cornette has done the implausible: In search of a title, he has aligned himself with The Rock 'n' Roll Express! But is it all part of a sinister master plan?

By Chris Bernucca

JIM CORNETTE IS used to being a power broker. But right now, in the area of power, he is broke. One year ago, Cornette was considered the most influential manager in the sport. He was voted 1993 Manager of the Year by the readers of this magazine. His

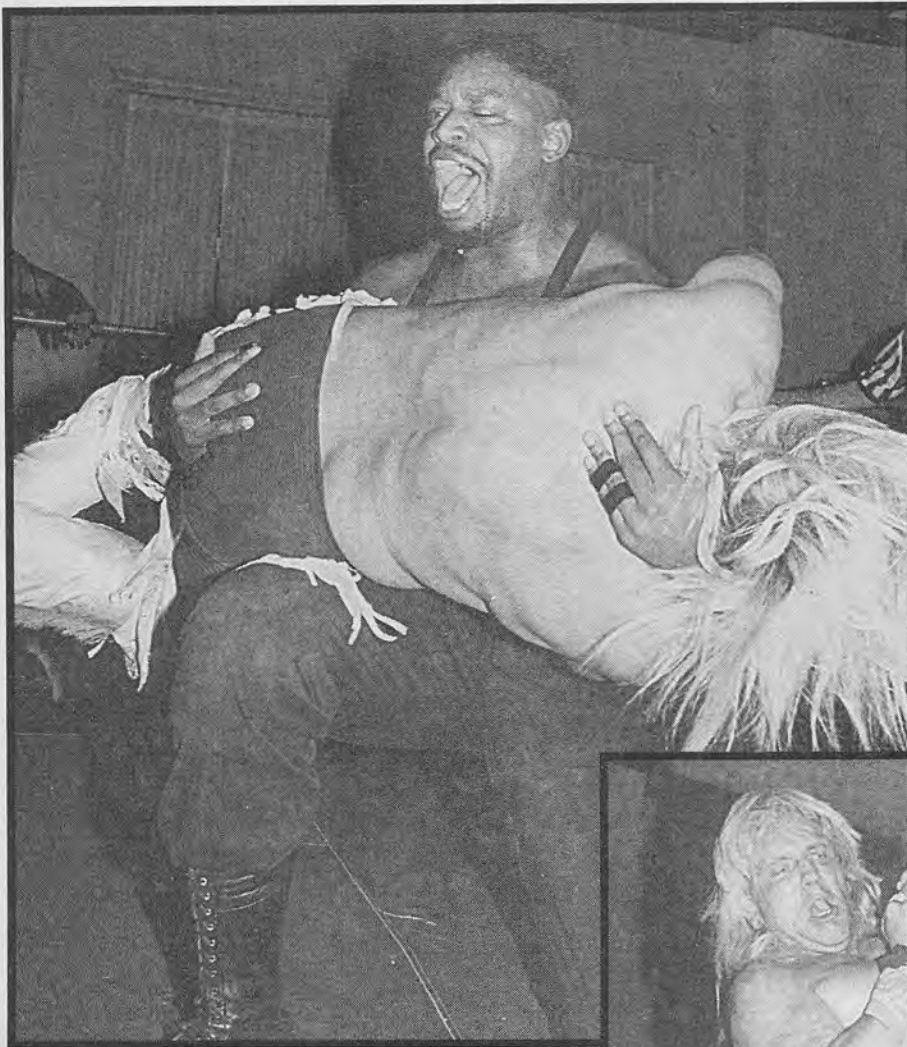
power stretched from Smoky Mountain Wrestling, where he was the point man for the tag team champions, The Heavenly Bodies, to the WWF, where he acted as adviser for World champion Yokozuna. It was almost impossible to watch a wrestling telecast without hearing Cornette's boasts and vitriolic outbursts.

But Cornette is no longer the most influential manager in the sport. In fact, he isn't even the most influential manager

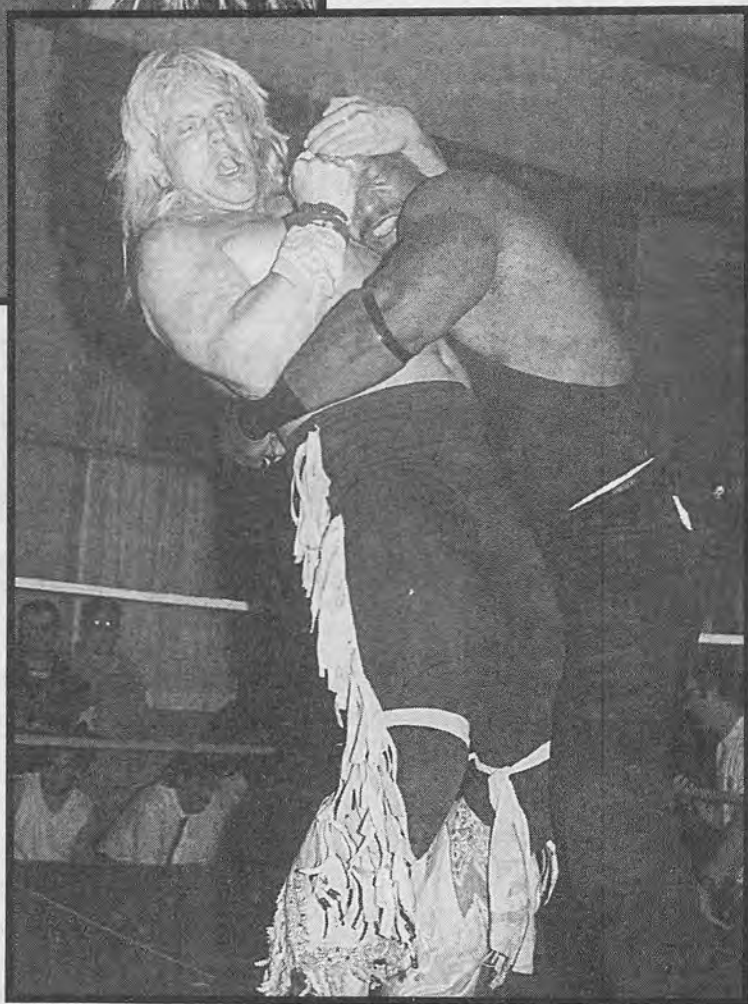
in his federation. Tammy Fytch has supplanted Cornette as the true power broker of Smoky Mountain. Craving the power that comes with managing a champion, Cornette pitched himself as manager to SMW tag team champs The Gangstas; his ego and stature took a tremendous hit when he was completely dissed by Mustafa Saed and New Jack.

"The Gangstas have been called ignorant, and now I see why," Cornette said. "How could they not want the greatest managerial mind in the history of the world in their corner? Ignorance is the only explanation, and Jim Cornette has no patience for ignorance."

Desperate times force men to desperate measures, and Cornette is des-



Mustafa Saed drives a knee into Rick Morton's side. The Rock 'n' Rolls have struggled in the past, but they have really had problems with The Gangstas. Jim Cornette—yes, Jim Cornette!—may help them reverse their fortunes.



Morton tries to escape Saed's bearhug. After all the abuse he and Robert Gibson have taken from Cornette over the years, wouldn't it be odd to see the manager use his tennis racket on their behalf?

perate. He has resorted to a drastic change of heart in order to regain his status as the power broker in SMW. Cornette once said "hell would freeze over" before he would manage The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Apparently, there is a cold front approaching the afterlife's southern hemisphere, because "The Louisville Slugger" has reached an agreement to do just that!

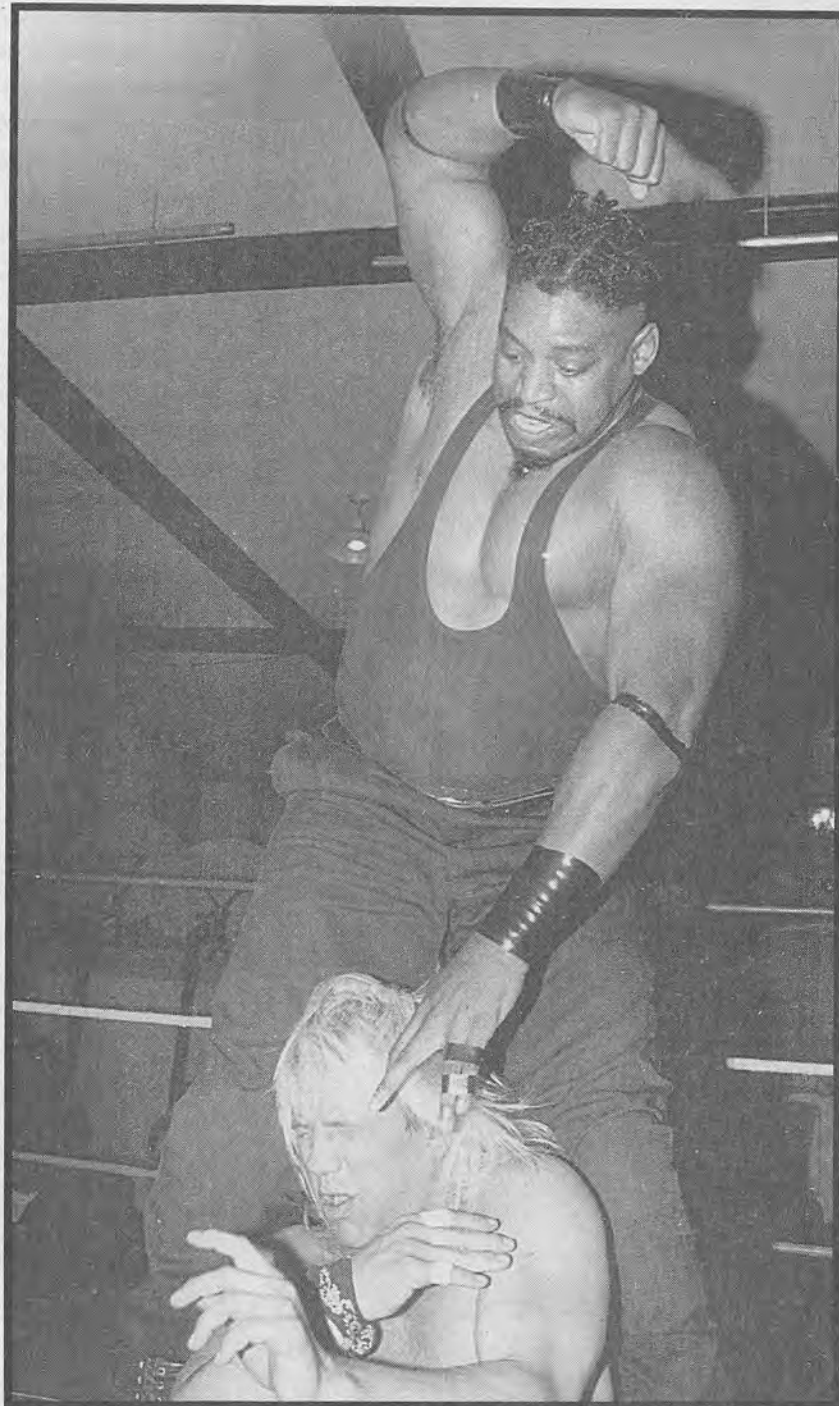
"I don't see why everybody is making such a big deal about this," Cornette complained. "Gibson and Morton are two wrestlers who needed a manager, and I'm a manager who needed wrestlers. It makes perfect sense to me."

Cornette is right. It *does* make sense—except for the small fact that he and The Rock 'n' Roll Express are mortal enemies. There are buckets upon buckets of bad blood among the men, much of which was spilled during a feud that lasted for the better part of a year when Cornette managed The Heavenly Bodies. There has never been any indication that Cornette could possibly get along with Rick Morton or Robert Gibson. He has feuded with them for more than a decade!

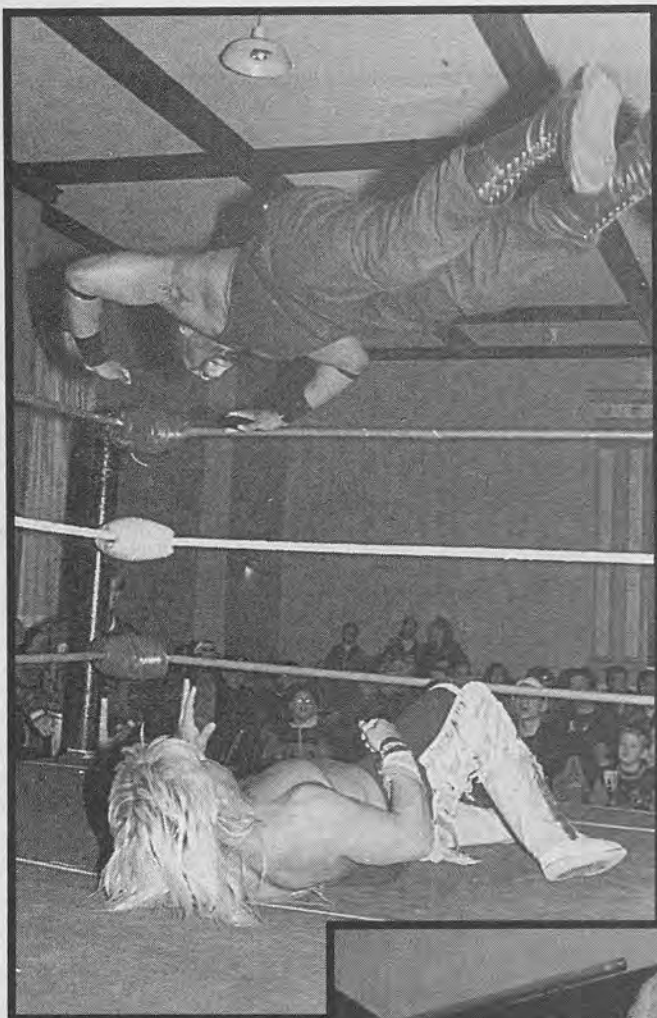
That, Jimbo, is why everybody is making such a big deal about this.

"It's not a lifetime agreement," Morton said. "It's a short-term thing. Robert and I would never commit to a long-term deal with Cornette. But right now, his goal is the same as ours, so we figure it couldn't hurt."

As Morton revealed, the agreement only covers a handful of matches, but most of them are title bouts against The Gangstas, who went to court to win the SMW tag team title from Morton and Gibson. The Gangstas had scored a pinfall in dubious fashion in September, but Bob Armstrong intervened and re-started the bout. When The Rock 'n' Roll Express emerged victorious, Saed and Jack hired a lawyer, who challenged SMW to show the precedent allowing Armstrong to re-start the match. When Smoky Mountain officials found no precedent, they had no choice but to hand the belts over to The Gangstas.



Morton could tell you just how strong Saed's right hand is. But he also knows how mean—and racist—The Gangstas can be. You would think Cornette would fit right in with such a hated team, but Saed and New Jack wanted no part of him.



Saed attacked Morton with a reverse splash (above) and a reverse atomic knee-drop (right) at a recent card. But the pain he felt that night might be nothing compared to the pain he'd feel if Cornette double-crosses him and Gibson.



If there is anyone in Smoky Mountain who is more hated than Cornette, it is The Gangstas. Saed and Jack have made plenty of enemies with their racist statements; now that they are champions, they have become even more despised. By affiliating himself with The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Cornette could be currying favor with the SMW fans, who adore Morton and Gibson as fan favorites.

But what if Morton and Gibson win the title, only to become rulebreakers? Cornette's managerial influence is well-documented, and he could get Morton and Gibson to put aside their principles for the sake of becoming or remaining champions.

"That's not gonna happen," said Gibson. "No way. We love the fans, we respect the fans, and we would never turn our backs on them. We've already told Cornette that we have no interest in changing our ways just to win a title. If he tries that, he's out as manager. In fact, if he tries anything Ricky and I don't like, we're through with him. We'll be keeping an eye on him every second of the way."

Worse yet is the possibility that Cornette and The Rock 'n' Roll Express simply cannot work together. Given the strong personalities and the history involved, this is already a precarious relationship. Conflicts between managers and wrestlers have torn apart teams with much stronger bonds, and it remains to be seen if Cornette, Morton, and Gibson

can ever get on the same page and work together.

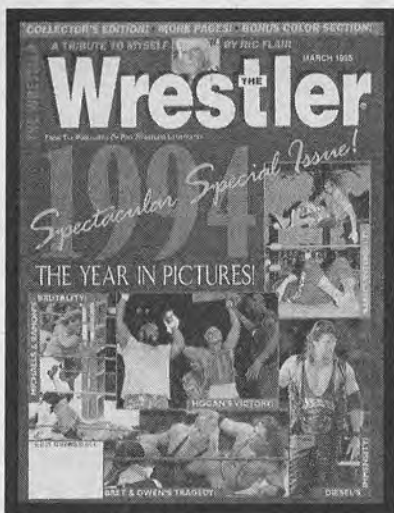
"Look, it's this simple," Cornette said. "Morton and Gibson have a bone to pick with The Gangstas, and so do I. They want the tag team title, and so do I. Only someone who is a complete idiot would say that this isn't a perfect match of manager and wrestlers."

A perfect match? Maybe it is. Then again, maybe this is all part of Cornette's master plan. Maybe he is actually working with The Gangstas in a plot to get rid of Morton and Gibson once and for all. It's hard to imagine Jim Cornette without a title. But it's harder to imagine him ever *really* making peace with the Rock 'n' Rolls. □

this month in...

THE Wrestler

SPECIAL ISSUE!!

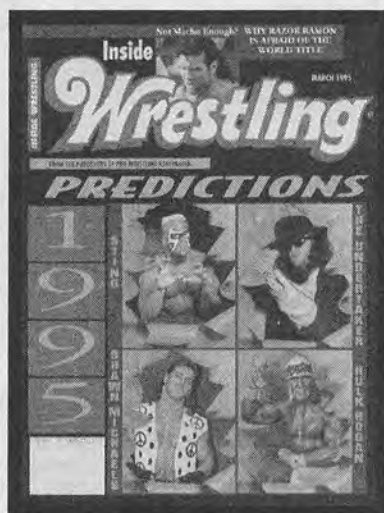


1994 was a year filled with triumph and tribulations. It included a second WWF World title reign for **BRET HART**, the beginning of the **HULK HOGAN** era in WCW, the **VINCE McMAHON** steroid trial, and more. We have it all in "The Year In Pictures" ... The WWF has dominated wrestling for more than a decade, but how does the WWF of 1995 stack up to the WWF of 1985? We compare the two to find out which one is better ... Who better to write a tribute to one of the greatest wrestlers ever, **RIC FLAIR**, than Flair himself? ... **HULK HOGAN** orders **DAVE SULLIVAN** to annihilate his brother **KEVIN**, but how far will the number-one "Hulkamaniac" go to please his mentor?

All this—and much more!—in the March 1995 issue of *The Wrestler*

**NOW
ON SALE!**

Inside Wrestling



What does 1995 have in store for the top wrestlers in the world? No one knows for sure, but we're willing to speculate. Read our predictions for such superstars as **HULK HOGAN**, **STING**, **DIESEL**, **BIG VAN VADER**, **SHAWN MICHAELS**, **SABU**, and others ... **RAZOR RAMON** is the "Bad Guy." He oozes machismo. He's a two-time Intercontinental champion. Could a man this tough actually be afraid of success? Afraid of challenging for the *World* title? That's what we're hearing ... Who's the nastiest tag team of them all? How about the *PWI* tag team of the year for 1994, **THE NASTY BOYS**? They don't like hearing people say they are no great tag teams anymore and they let us know it in "Hotseat"!

All this—and much more!—in the March 1995 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

**NOW
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The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.



UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

SUN VALLEY—Slammers Wrestling Federation at the Gym: Sparky Carter defeated "Beautiful" Bruce Beaudine by disqualification ... Hombre de Oro & Tyrone "Tiny" Little beat "Beautiful" Bruce Beaudine & Movie Star Mike in a best-of-three-falls match ... Verne Langdon and El Toro Bravo wrestled to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion Jeff Lindberg beat Dynamite D by disqualification when Movie Star Mike interfered. (12-04-94)

—Gregg John

FLORIDA

JACKSONVILLE—WCW Clash of the Champions XXIX at the Coliseum: Marcus Alexander Bagwell & The Patriot defeated World tag team champions Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma to win the title when Bagwell pinned Orndorff ... TV champion Johnny B. Badd defeated The Honky Tonk Man by disqualification when Honky Tonk hit Badd in the head with a guitar ... Harlem Heat (managed by Sherri Martel) defeated The Nasty Boys ... Big Van Vader (managed by Harley Race) pinned Dustin Rhodes ... U.S. champion Hacksaw Duggan defeated Steve Austin by disqualification when Harley Race and Big Van Vader interfered ... Hulk Hogan, Sting, & Dave Sullivan defeated Brutus Beefcake, Avalanche, & Kevin Sullivan when Hogan pinned Kevin. (11-16-94)

—Sean Valentine

ORLANDO—WCW at the Orlando Arena: Frankie Lancaster defeated Mark Starr ... The Guardian Angel beat Lord Steven Regal ... TV champ Johnny B. Badd and The Honky Tonk Man wrestled to a draw ... The Nasty Boys beat Paul Roma & Jean Paul LeVeque (substituting for Paul Orndorff) ... U.S. champion Hacksaw Duggan defeated Steve Austin ... Dusty & Dustin Rhodes beat Arn Anderson & Bunkhouse Buck ... Hulk Hogan, Sting, & Dave Sullivan beat Kevin Sullivan, Brutus Beefcake, & Avalanche by disqualification. (11-13-94)

—Ron Lemieux

GAINESVILLE—Florida Major League Wrestling at the Alachua County Fair: Warlord pinned Lord Humongous ... Buggy McGraw defeated Greg Valentine by disqualification ... Phi Delta Slam beat Heavy Machinery ... Florida champion Lou Perez defeated Hercules ... Penelope Paradise beat Senorita Con Mascara ... Hercules won a battle royal. (11-07-94)

—Ron Lemieux

GEORGIA

WARNER ROBINS—Peach State Wrestling at the Civic Center: Billy Black wrestled Scott Armstrong to a time-limit draw ... Jerry Lawler beat Jake Roberts by disqualification ... Bambi & Malia Hosaka beat Candi Devine & Amazon Queen ... Gorgeous George III beat Scott Studd ... Rick Steiner beat Dick Slater by disqualification ... The Blazers beat Steve Lawler & Shaska Whatley. (11-26-94)

—Steve Prazak

CHATSWORTH—Tri-Star Wrestling at Spring Place: Chuck Colt and The Intruder wrestled to a 10-minute time-limit draw ... Shogun Warrior defeated Charlie Long ... Jimmy Sharpe & Joel Travis defeated Chuck Colt & Dartari when Travis pinned Colt ... The Shadow defeated Dallas Steele. (11-19-94)

—Bill Needham

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Billy Montana defeated Dr. Feelgood ... Richie Dye defeated Johnny Blaze ... The Original Nightmare & Frankie Lee defeated Jimmy Sharpe & Big Tiny when Nightmare pinned Tiny ... "Bad Medicine" Roger Sartin & Joel Travis defeated "Tons Of Fun" John & Big Bubba Humphries when Travis pinned Big Bubba ... Dr. Feelgood won a 10-man, \$2,400 pole battle royal. (11-18-94)

—Bill Needham

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Billy Montana defeated Chuck Colt ... Richie Dye beat Mr. Rossville ... Big Bubba & John Humphries beat Billy Montana & Jimmy Sharpe ... Johnny Blaze & Frankie Lee beat Joel Travis & The French Angel ... Rawhead Rex beat Sam Colt in a barbed-wire match. (11-11-94)

—Earl Walton

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—Windy City Wrestling at Rowan Park Field House: Ripper Manson beat Brandon Bishop ... Lightweight champion Steve Boz beat Christopher Daniels by disqualification ...

Women's champion Toni Alexis pinned Amazon ... Mike Anthony & Haystacks Ross defeated Danny Dominion & Kevin Quinn by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion Mike Samson defeated R. Valentino by disqualification ... Tag team champions The Wrecking Crew beat Black Jack Bennett & Sonny Rogers. (12-03-94)

—Steve Cain

KENTUCKY

BARBOURVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Knox Central High School: Tracey Smothers beat The Nightmare ... Cactus Jack & Brian Lee beat Chris Candido & Boo Bradley ... "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony & Ron Wright beat Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Corrette ... Tag team champions The Gangstas beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express. (12-03-94)

—David McMullen

ERLANGER—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Peel's Palace: Sean Casey beat Damian ... Ron Cumberland beat Tower Of Doom ... Bryant Anderson defeated Tracey Smothers ... Cactus Jack & Brian Lee wrestled to a double-countout with Chris Candido & Boo Bradley ... Heavyweight champion "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony beat Bruiser Bedlam in a strap match ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat tag team champions The Gangstas by disqualification. (12-02-94)

—Jerry DiSantino

LOUISVILLE—USWA at the Louisville Gardens: Sgt. Victor beat Doug Basham ... Spellbinder pinned Brian Fletcher ... Tag team champions The Moondogs defeated The Phantoms ... Tommy Rich & Doug Gilbert defeated Buddy Landell & Brian Christopher ... Brian Christopher won a battle royal ... Lex Luger defeated heavyweight champion Sid Vicious by disqualification. (11-08-94)

—John Halford

MARYLAND

HAMPSTEAD—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation at North Carroll High School: Corporal Punishment won a battle royal ... Karen Simpson beat Nasty Angel ... Mad Dog O'Malley pinned Chicken Neck ... Mark Shipley (a teacher at the high school) beat "Hollywood" Bob Starr ... The Comet pinned Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion Joe Thunder to win the title ... Dink pinned Little Ninja in a midgets match ... Scotty Flamingo pinned Axl Rotten ... Cactus Jack & Morgus the Maniac defeated The Goodfellas ... Brutus Beefcake beat Dink The Clown with a sleeperhold ... Road Warrior Hawk pinned The Warlord. (11-12-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

CATONSVILLE—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation at the Armory: "White Lightning" Kenny Basta beat Bad Billy Bratt ... Mad Dog O'Malley beat Mr. Destiny ... Johnny Paradise beat Ramblin' Rich ... Mark Schrader beat Shane Shamrock to win the vacant light heavyweight title ... Axl Rotten and Cactus Jack wrestled to a double-countout ... Little Ninja beat The Irish Leprechaun in a midjet match ... Heavyweight champion Morgus The Maniac beat Scotty Flamingo ... The Warlord beat Brutus Beefcake by disqualification ... The Comet & Road Warrior Hawk beat tag team champions The Hollywood Hunks to win the belts. (11-11-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

MASSACHUSETTS

TEWKSBURY—Century Wrestling Alliance at the High School: Johnny Gunn beat Bert Centano ... Doink The Clown beat Swat ... The New Hampshire Nightmare beat Rick Lloyd ... Misty Blue Simmes and Nasty Girl wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Vic Steamboat wrestled to a time-limit draw with J.P. Jones ... Knuckles Nelson beat The Candy Man ... Jimmy Snuka defeated The Metal Maniac ... Hillbilly Jim defeated Tony Atlas by disqualification. (12-03-94)

—Jeff Gray

SPRINGFIELD—WWF at the Civic Center: Adam Bomb pinned Bam Bam Bigelow ... Alundra Blayze & Heidi Lee Morgan defeated Bull Nakano & Luna Vachon ... Bob Backlund beat Doink The Clown (with Dink) by submission ... Lex Luger and Tatanka wrestled to a double-countout ... The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Owen Hart ... The Undertaker (managed by Paul Bearer) defeated Yokozuna (with Mr. Fuji & Irwin R. Schyster) in a casket match. (11-13-94)

—Bryan Bracey

BOSTON—WWF at Boston Garden: The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Adam Bomb ... Jerry Lawler beat Doink The Clown ... Lex Luger and Tatanka wrestled to a double-countout ... Alundra Blayze & Heidi Lee Morgan defeated Bull Nakano & Luna Vachon ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Owen Hart ... The Undertaker defeated Irwin R. Schyster. (11-12-94)

—Sue Marone

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS—WWF at Kiel Center: The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn ... Adam Bomb defeated Bam Bam Bigelow ... Jerry Lawler beat Doink The Clown ... Tatanka fought Lex Luger to a double-countout ... Heidi Lee Morgan & Alundra Blayze beat Luna Vachon & Bull Nakano ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Owen Hart ... The Undertaker beat Yokozuna in a casket match. (11-10-94)

—Larry Hohnbaum

NEW JERSEY

CLEMENTON—World Wrestling Alliance at the Route 30 Mall: John Rotten pinned Jason Headings ... Gus The Greek and Akida Kaos wrestled to a time-limit draw ... Chuck Sloan and Ed Atlas (managed by Eddie Reality) wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Tag team champions Bad Attitude defeated Jason Headings & Scotty The Body ... In the finals of a tournament for the vacant junior heavyweight title: El Latino pinned Jim McPherson to win the title. However, McPherson unmasked Latino after the match and revealed him to be East L.A. Because East L.A. had been suspended by the federation several weeks earlier and was banned from competing in

the tournament, promoter Larry Sharpe awarded the title to McPherson ... Heavyweight champion "Fighting" Frank Finnegan (managed by Tricky Nicky) defeated Paul White by countout. (12-03-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

CHERRY HILL—NWA/Smoky Mountain at the National Guard Armory: In the first round of a tournament for the vacant NWA title: Tracey Smothers beat Devon Storm ... Eddie Gilbert pinned Johnny Gunn with his own feet on the ropes during the count ... Chris Candido (managed by Tammy Fytch) beat Al Snow ... Tony Anthony beat Jerry Lawler (managed by Jim Cornette) by disqualification when Cornette interfered. Lawler and Cornette proceeded to injure Anthony's left leg with Cornette's tennis racket ... Osamu Nishimura fought Lou Perez to a 15-minute time-limit draw, thus eliminating both men ... In semifinal matches: Smothers was awarded the decision over Gilbert in a double-pin situation when an outside referee ruled that Smothers lifted his left shoulder off the mat before the three-count ... Candido beat Anthony ... In the final: Candido beat Smothers to win the title ... In non-tournament matches: The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Smoky Mountain tag team champions The Gangstas by disqualification ... Scotty Flamingo beat Doink The Clown. (11-19-94)

—Fred Schreiber

PLEASANTVILLE—NWA/Smoky Mountain at the High School: The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Smoky Mountain tag team champions The Gangstas by disqualification ... Tracey Smothers beat Chris Candido by disqualification when Tammy Fytch interfered ... Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion Tony Anthony pinned Scotty Flamingo ... Al Snow beat Devon Storm when Tony Rumble's interference backfired ... Johnny Gunn beat Doink The Clown ... Cousin Luke beat Abbudh Singh. (11-18-94)

—Ron DeStefano

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya beat Kwang The Ninja ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Jeff Jarrett ... Mabel beat Pierre ... Diesel defeated World champion Bob Backlund in eight seconds to win the title ... The Headshrinkers beat The Executioners ... Davey Boy Smith wrestled King Kong Bundy to a double-countout ... The Undertaker beat Irwin R. Schyster. (11-26-94)

—Donald Dyer

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM—Southern Championship Wrestling at Bethesda Athletic Center: Night Breed pinned The Blue Angel ... Roger Anderson pinned Boris Dragoff ... Shawn Powers & Billy Simmons beat Pat Anderson & C.W. Anderson ... Poison Ivy pinned Mike Justice ... The Intruder battled Mike Youngblood to a double-countout ... Steve Storm & Tony Steele beat Jimmy Cicero & Brian Perry in a lights-out street fight ... Viper defeated Major DeBeers in a ladder match. (12-03-94)

—Greg Mosorjak

NORTH WILKESBORO—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Tyrone Knox beat Black Scorpion ... The Southern Rockers beat Damage Inc. ... Star Ryder beat Texas Outlaw ... Flaming Youth beat Austin Steele ... Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion beat Terry Austin ... Star Ryder won a battle royal. (11-26-94)

—Ike Earlson

PFAPFTOWN—AIWF "Thanksgiving Slamfest" at the West Central Community Center: King Cobra beat Chris Windham ... The Intimidator and Roadblock Rex wrestled to a time-limit draw ... Bad Brad defeated Indian Outlaw ... Daniel Lee beat lightweight champion Jumpin' Jimmy to win the title ... Justice Inc. beat Bad Brad & King Cobra (substituting for The Terminators) ... Sebastian Kane, Roadblock Rex, & Brian Danzig beat Dixie Dynamite & Patrick Friday ... U.S. champion Robert Roma defeated Major Havoc ... Pretty Boy Slater defeated heavyweight champion Boston Terrier to win the belt ... Dynamite Doug won a 15-man battle royal, last eliminating Sebastian Kane. (11-26-94)

—Dean Puckett

FOREST CITY—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: Russian Assassin II beat Greg Hart ... Damage Inc. beat The Southern Rockers ... Star Ryder & Flaming Youth beat Chris Hamrick & Jay Eagle by disqualification ... Bambi beat Peggy Lee Leather ... Tyrone Knox beat Texas Outlaw ... Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion beat Terry Austin ... Star Ryder won a battle royal. (11-25-94)

—Billy Roscoe

HILDEBRAN—Independent Championship Wrestling at the Old Hildebran School: D.G. Rothrock III defeated Agent Steel ... Crypt Keeper defeated "Dynamic" David Daniels ... "Mean" Marc Ash defeated Southern Justice ... Tag team champions The Real Deal defeated The Lightning Express ... Brent Maverick defeated The Untouchable ... "Mean" Marc Ash and "Ironman" Mike Majors wrestled to a draw. (11-19-94)

—John Connor

MOORESVILLE—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Greg Hart beat Too Hott Thomas ... Tyrone Knox beat Scott Powers ... Star Ryder & Flaming Youth beat Austin Steele & Chris Hamrick ... Italian Stallion beat heavyweight champion Terry Austin to win the belt ... Star Ryder won a battle royal. (11-12-94)

—Doug Hines

MOUNT AIRY—AIWF at the National Guard Armory: Major Havoc beat Roadblock Rex ... Bad Brad beat King Cobra ... Pretty Boy Slater beat The Black Knight ... Dixie Dynamite defeated Sebastian Kane & Bad Brad ... Justice Inc. defeated The Terminators ... Indian Outlaw beat lightweight champion Jumpin' Jimmy by disqualification ... Robert Roma beat U.S. champion "Dangerous" Don Carson to win the title ... Heavyweight champion Boston Terrier beat Chuck The Kosher Killer by disqualification ... The Tennessee Violence Authority and The Tennessee Intimidators wrestled to a double-countout in a Tennessee street fight. (11-12-94)

—Dean Puckett

LENOIR—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Mulberry Street Recreation Center: Bryant Anderson wrestled Tracey Smothers to a draw ... Brian Lee & Lance Storm defeated Chris Candido & Boo Bradley by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion Tony Anthony beat Bruiser Bedlam in a strap match ... Tag team champs The Gangstas defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a no-disqualification match. (11-10-94)

—Maria Wilson

HOLLY RIDGE—ICW at the Middle School: "Dynamic" David Daniels beat Crypt Keeper ... Tim Baker wrestled David Gladstone to a draw ... Tag team champions The Real Deal beat The

Lightning Express ... "Mean" Marc Ash wrestled "Ironman" Mike Majors to a double-countout ... Heavyweight champion **Scotty McKeever** beat **Agent Steel** ... Mike Majors won a battle royal.
(11-09-94)

—John Connor

OKLAHOMA

MOORESVILLE—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance at Main Event Arena: **Rick Garrett** pinned **Rick Valentine** ... **Rick Valentine** pinned **Rick Garrett** ... **Slash** pinned **Yellow Rose** ... **Tom Jones** beat **Stagger Lee** by disqualification ... **Bonecrusher Steve** pinned **Psycho** ... Tag team champions **The Pony Express** beat **The Brotherhood Of Pain** when **Maverick** pinned **Slash** ... The PZWA heavyweight title was held up after champion **Shawn Summers** and **Casey Cannon** wrestled to a double-pin.
(12-04-94)

—Clark C. Peterson

PENNSYLVANIA

DOWNINGTOWN—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Farmers' Market: **Mr. Motion** beat **Rick Ratchet** ... **Super Nova** beat **Rocco Dorsey** ... **Derrick Domino** and **Harley Lewis** wrestled to a no-contest as **Domino** attacked **Lewis** before the bell ... **Angus "The Night Creature"** Halford beat **Glenn Osbourne** ... **Overlord** beat **Maverick** ... **Sniper** beat **Doc**.
(12-04-94)

—Dan Haney

PITTSBURGH—WWF at the Civic Center: **Pierre** beat **The Kid** ... **Duke "The Dumpster" Droese** beat **Mo** ... **Diesel** beat **King Kong Bundy** ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat **World champion Bob Backlund** by countout ... **Mabel** beat **Steven Dunn** ... Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** beat **Jeff Jarrett** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Irwin R. Schyster**.
(11-25-94)

—Stacey Gherman

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **J.T. Smith** & **Steve Richards** defeated **Hack Myers** & **Chad Austin** when **Smith** pinned **Austin** ... **The Pit Bulls** (managed by **Jason**) defeated **Ian** & **Axl Rotten** in a double-dog-collar match when **Pit Bull Psycho Mike** pinned **Ian** ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **The Sandman** ... **Sabu** & **Tasmaniac** defeated **Dean** & **Joe Malenko** when **Tasmaniac** pinned **Dean** ... **Cactus Jack** & **Kevin Sullivan** defeated tag team champions **Public Enemy** by disqualification ... **Ron Simmons** & **2 Cold Scorpio** defeated **Shane Douglas** & **Brian Pillman** (managed by **Sherri Martel**) when **Simmons** pinned **Douglas**.
(11-19-94)

—Bart Orkline

PHILADELPHIA—NWA/Smoky Mountain at Stanton Hall: **Osamu Nishimura** pinned "Dangerous" **Devon Storm** ... **Doink The Clown** pinned **Abdullah Singh** (managed by **Destiny**) ... **Cowabunga The Turtle** (who, during the match, revealed himself to be **SMW** referee **Mark Curtis**) pinned **Jim Cornette** ... **Johnny Gunn** pinned **Derrick Domino** after **Tony Rumble**, **Domino's** manager, turned against him ... **Smoky Mountain** heavyweight champion **Tony Anthony** defeated **Scotty Flamingo** (managed by **Thomas The Friendly Bus Driver**). **Flamingo** had pinned **Anthony** for the belt, but **Tracey Smothers** came to the ring and pointed out to the referee that **Flamingo** had used brass knuckles. The match was eventually restarted and **Anthony** pinned **Flamingo** to retain the title ... **Tracey Smothers** defeated **Chris Candido** (managed by **Tammy Fytch**) in a \$2,500 ladder match ... **The Rock 'n' Roll**

Express defeated **SMW** tag team champions **The Gangstas** by disqualification.
(11-17-94)

—Stan Fanmond

JIM THORPE—Extreme Championship Wrestling at Flagstaff: **Mikey Whipwreck** defeated **Steve Richards** ... **911** beat **Hack Myers** & **Dino Sendoff** in a handicap match. After the match, **Myers** turned against **Sendoff** and pinned him in an impromptu match ... **Tommy Dreamer** pinned **Tommy Cairo** ... **Kevin Sullivan** and **Tasmaniac** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Sabu** pinned **Cactus Jack** ... Tag team champions **Public Enemy** and **Ron Simmons** & **2 Cold Scorpio** wrestled to a no-contest after several wrestlers interfered.
(11-18-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHESTER—North American Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Flaming Youth** & **Terry Slater** wrestled **Scotty McKeever** & **Scotty Hot Body** to a 10-minute time-limit draw ... **Kevin Kirby** defeated **Mad Dog** by disqualification ... **Darrell Duggan** defeated light heavyweight champion **Robert Jones** in a non-title match ... Heavyweight champion **Super Rooker** defeated **Bobby Rose** ... "Ringlord" **Speedy Gonzalez** defeated **Johnny B. Goode** ... **The American G.I.** & **Dozer** wrestled **The Texas Outlaws** to a double-disqualification.
(11-19-94)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

GREENEVILLE—All-Pro Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Vicious Victor** & **Bad Company** defeated **David Spade** & **Black Top Bully** ... **Ricky Harrison** beat **The Stallion** ... "Maniac" **Mike McCoy**, **Dr. Feelgood**, & **Tiny** wrestled **The Boss**, **Frank Parker**, & **Midnight Mauler** to a double-disqualification ... **Cherokee Renegade** & **Alex Shane** wrestled **The Troublemakers** to a draw ... U.S. champion **Ghost Rider** beat **Chris Steelhart** ... **Chainz** defeated heavyweight champion **Mike Spade** to win the title ... **Jimmy Valiant** & **Mr. X** beat tag team champions **The Beautiful Blonds** by disqualification.
(11-12-94)

—Bill Needham

JOHNSON CITY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Freedom Hall: **Lance Storm** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Bryant Anderson** beat **Tracey Smothers** ... "Dirty White Boy" **Tony Anthony** & **Ron Wright** beat **Bruiser Bedlam** & **Jim Cornette** ... **Brian Lee** & **Cactus Jack** wrestled **Chris Candido** & **Boo Bradley** (managed by **Tammy Fytch**) to a double-countout ... **Bob Armstrong** beat **Bob Orton Jr.** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** beat **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**.
(11-25-94)

—Dan Parris

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at Patter's Building: **Russell Thompson** defeated **Billy Marshall** ... **The Shadow** beat **Junior Wright** ... **Rick Connors** pinned **Jackie D** ... **Charlie Long** wrestled **The Shogun** to a time-limit draw ... **Tony Prichard** & **Lone Star** defeated **Regulators Stone** & **Steele**.
(11-25-94)

—Bill Needham

KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Civic Coliseum: **Lance Storm** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... **Tracey Smothers** wrestled **Bryant Anderson** to a time-limit draw ... "Dirty White Boy" **Tony Anthony** & **Ron Wright** defeated **Bruiser Bedlam** & **Jim Cornette** ... **Cactus Jack** & **Brian Lee** wrestled **Chris Candido** & **Boo**

Bradley to a double-countout ... **Bob Armstrong** beat **Bob Orton Jr.** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** defeated **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**.
(11-24-94)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **King Cobra** beat **Phantom Tragedy** ... **Phantom Sorrow** beat **Jeff Gaylord** by disqualification when **Gaylord** dragged **Fantasia**, **Sorrow's** valet, into the ring and spanked her ... **Spellbinder** pinned **Buddy Landell** with his own feet on the ropes ... **Miss Texas**, **Jeff Gaylord**, & **King Cobra** beat **Fantasia** & **The Phantoms** in a tag team elimination match. **Texas** pinned **Phantom Tragedy** to win the match ... **The Moondogs** beat **Ron** & **Jimmy Harris** to win the held-up tag team title. After the match, the **Harris** stole the belts and fled to the dressing room ... **Mabel** beat heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** by disqualification ... **Brian Christopher**, **Bill Dundee**, & **Jerry Lawler** beat **Doug Gilbert**, **Troy Graham**, & **Tommy Rich** when **Lawler** pinned **Gilbert**.
(11-21-94)

—Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Sgt. Victor** beat **Tony Williams** ... **Spellbinder** defeated **Doug Basham** ... Tag team champions **The Moondogs** beat **The Phantoms** ... **Miss Texas** beat **Scott Bowden** ... **Doug Gilbert** beat **Buddy Landell** in a Tennessee street fight ... **Brian Christopher** defeated Southern champion **Tommy Rich** by disqualification when **Scott Bowden** interfered ... **Brian Christopher** won a 12-man battle royal, last eliminating **Doug Gilbert** ... Heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** defeated **The Undertaker** by reverse decision. **Undertaker** had pinned **Vicious** after kayoing him with a chain that **Vicious** brought to the ring, but **Spellbinder** came to the ring and told referee **Kevin Christian** what happened and the decision was reversed.
(11-07-94)

—Mark Mitchell

TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO—WWF Survivor Series at Freeman Coliseum: **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** beat **Kwang The Ninja** in a match not shown on the pay-per-view broadcast ... **Razor Ramon**, **Fatu**, **The Kid**, **Davey Boy Smith**, & **Sionne** beat **Jeff Jarrett**, **Diesel**, **Jim Neidhart**, **Owen Hart**, & **Shawn Michaels**. Order of elimination: **Diesel** pinned **Fatu** at 13:36; **Diesel** pinned **The Kid** at 14:05; **Diesel** pinned **Sionne** at 14:39; **Davey Boy Smith** was counted out at 15:02; At 21:38, with **Razor Ramon** the only man left on his team, the opposing team was counted out when the other three members of the team tried to stop **Diesel** from attacking **Michaels** in the dressing room after an argument ensued between the two ... **Jerry Lawler**, **Sleazy**, **Queasy**, & **Cheesy** beat **Doink The Clown**, **Dink**, **Pink**, & **Wink**. Order of elimination: **Lawler** held **Doink's** trunks and pinned him at 10:33; **Queasy** pinned **Wink** with **Lawler's** assistance; **Cheesy** pinned **Pink** with **Lawler's** help; **Queasy** pinned **Dink** at 16:26 ... **Bob Backlund** beat **World champion Bret Hart** to win the title when **Bret's** mother, **Helen**, threw in the towel for her son at 35:14 ... **King Kong Bundy**, **Tatanka**, **Bam Bam Bigelow**, & **The Heavenly Bodies** beat **Mabel**, **Lex Luger**, **Adam Bomb**, & **The Smokin' Gunns**. Order of elimination: **Mabel** pinned **Tom Prichard** at 3:38; **Mabel** was counted out at 6:24; **Bigelow** pinned **Bomb** at 8:49; **Luger** pinned **Jim Del Ray** at 10:36; **Tatanka** pinned **Bart Gunn** at 14:06; **Bundy** pinned **Billy Gunn** at 16:53; **Luger** pinned **Tatanka** at 22:53; **Bundy** pinned **Luger** at 23:02 ... **The Undertaker** beat **Yokozuna** in a casket match.
(11-23-94)

—Brandon Seth Apter

VIRGINIA

HAYS—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the High School: Tracey Smothers beat Bryant Anderson ... Heavyweight champion "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony beat Bruiser Bedlam in a strap match ... Rick Morton beat Chris Candido ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat tag team champions The Gangstas by disqualification. (12-01-94)

—Phil Alywick

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRIA

VIENNA—WWF at the Ferry Dusika Radstaben: The Kid defeated Kwang The Ninja ... Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly beat Pierre ... Diesel defeated Fatu ... Mabel beat Jeff Jarrett by disqualification ... The Smokin' Gunns beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Jim Neidhart ... World champion Bret Hart beat King Kong Bundy. (11-15-94)

—Karl Helmer

CANADA

JOLIETTE—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: Headhunter II defeated The Cannibal ... The Ninja beat The Darkman ... Black Bear defeated Crazy Eddie in a falls-count-anywhere match ... The Crazy Dragons beat Jim Dancer & Boris Khrushchev ... Quebec champion Dream Killer beat Steph Belanger ... Phil Belanger defeated Intericity champion Syl Dancer to win the belt ... Tag team champions Iceman & Frank Blues defeated The Fuhrer & Dream Killer. (11-26-94)

—Bertrand Hebert

BELLEVEILLE—WWF at Quinte Sports Center: "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya defeated Kwang The Ninja ... Jim Neidhart defeated Doink The Clown ... The Headshrinkers defeated The Executioners ... Tatanka and Lex Luger wrestled to a double-countout ... World Women's champion Bull Nakano pinned Alundra Blayze with her own feet on the ropes ... Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly defeated Steve Lombardi ... Owen Hart defeated Adam Bomb. (11-24-94)

—Bertrand Hebert

RED DEER—WWF at the Centrum: The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn ... Irwin R. Schyster beat Duke "The Dumpster" Droese ... Bob Backlund defeated Adam Bomb ... Lex Luger beat Tatanka by countout ... "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Owen Hart ... The Undertaker beat Yokozuna. (11-17-94)

—John Erickson

GERMANY

COLOGNE—WWF at Sporthalle: The Kid beat Kwang The Ninja ... Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly beat Pierre ... Diesel defeated Fatu ... Mabel beat Jeff Jarrett by countout ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Heavenly Bodies ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Jim Neidhart ... World champion Bret Hart defeated King Kong Bundy. (11-13-94)

—William Faus

ISRAEL

TEL AVIV—WWF at the Heichel Hasport: "Man O' War" Aldo Montoya beat Pierre ... The Bushwhackers beat Timothy Well & Barry Horowitz (substituting for Steven Dunn) ... Duke "The Dumpster" Droese beat Kwang The Ninja ... Davey Boy Smith beat King Kong Bundy ... The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Heavenly Bodies by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon beat Jeff Jarrett ... Lex Luger beat Tatanka. (12-04-94)

—Aaron Morag

JAPAN

TOKYO—UWF at Budokan Hall: Tom Burton beat Yamamoto ... Yuko Miyato beat Kazushi Sakuraba ... Yoji Anjyo beat Hiromitsu Kanehara ... Billy Scott defeated Tatsuo Nakano ... Naoki Sano beat Yoshiro Takayama ... Kiyoshi Tamura beat Dan Severn ... Kazuo Yamazaki defeated Masahito Kakiara ... Gary Albright defeated Nobuhiko Takada. (11-30-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

YOKOSUKA—New Japan at the Gym: Samurai beat Shinjiro Otani ... Wild Pegasus beat Tatsuhiro Takaiwa ... Norio Honaga beat Tokimitsu Ishizawa ... Black Tiger beat Gran Hamada ... Akira Nogami & Takayuki Iizuka beat Yuri Nagata & Power Warrior ... Osamu Kido beat Hiro Saito ... Tsumi Fujinami & Katoshi Kojima defeated Tadao Yasuda & Riki Choshu ... Manabu Nakanishi, Hiroshi Hase, The Great Muta, & Shinya Hashimoto beat 2 Cold Scorpio, Tim Horner, Ron Simmons, & Scott Norton. (11-30-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

OKAYAMA—All-Japan at the Gym: Satoru Asako & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi beat Kentaro Shiga & Masao Inoue ... Abdullah The Butcher & Giant Kamala II beat Ryukaky Izumida & Mighty Inoue ... Masa Fuchi & Haruka Eigen beat Rusher Kimura & Mitsuo Momota ... Doug Fumas beat Tamon Honda ... Dan Spivey & Jim Steele beat The Eagle & The Falcon ... Giant Baba & Stan Hansen beat Dory Funk Jr. & Johnny Smith ... Mitsuharu Misawa & Kenta Kobashi beat Jun Akiyama & Takao Omori ... Steve Smith, Johnny Ace, & Dan Kroffat beat Toshiaki Kawada, Akira Taue, & Yoshinari Ogawa. (11-24-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY FEBRUARY

FLORIDA

ORLANDO—NWA "Battle Of The Belts II" at the Eddie Graham Sports Complex: Bahamas champion Tyree Pride defeated Ron Slinker ... Florida champion Kendall Windham beat Prince Laukea ... Denny Brown defeated White Ninja by disqualification ... Southern champion Lex Luger beat Jesse Barr ... Wahoo McDaniel and Bruiser Brody wrestled to a double-countout ... The Road Warriors & Blackjack Mulligan wrestled to a double-countout with Kevin Sullivan, Maha Singh, & Mark Lewin ... World champion Ric Flair defeated Barry Windham. (02-14-86)

—Rich Henry

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: Bull Pometti beat Lee Wong ... Jack Evans defeated Jean DuBois ... Sky Low Low & Little Brutus beat Little Joey & Frenchy Landau in a midjet tag team match ... Blackjack Mulligan defeated Tony Marino ... Gorilla Monsoon and Bepo Mongol wrestled to a draw ... The Canadian Wolfman and Manuel Soto wrestled to a draw ... Pedro Morales pinned World champion Ivan Koloff to win the title. (02-08-71)

—Steve Hayes

BUFFALO—NWA at Memorial Auditorium: Jim Wright pinned Seelie Samara ... Vic Christy and Steve "Mr. America" Stanlee wrestled to a 30-minute time-limit draw ... Mr. Canada wrestled to a draw with Sandor Kovacs ... Lucky Simunovich beat Donn Lewin ... Yukon Eric beat Barney Bernard. (02-09-51)

—PWI archives



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press conference

(Continued from page 23)

somebody to the ring with him, but he chose not to. That isn't my problem, it's his. I made the right move, he didn't, and I'm the champion. If he doesn't like it, he can lump it.

RODRIGUEZ: It looks like your biggest challenge could come not from Smothers, but from Brian Lee, your ex-partner.

CANDIDO: You're serious, right?

LENKER: You mean you're not concerned about Lee?

CANDIDO: Look, there's a good reason me and Tammy told Lee to take a hike. He was dead wood. He was a loser. We might still be the Smoky Mountain tag team champions if he hadn't messed things up. The guy is maybe the most overrated bum in wrestling. Dropping him was the best decision me and Tammy have made so far. He might be making a lot of noise about coming after me, but that's all it is: noise. He isn't even close to being on the list of NWA title contenders.

ROSENBAUM: That could be because he's thinking tag teams. He and Cactus Jack are coming after you and Boo Bradley.

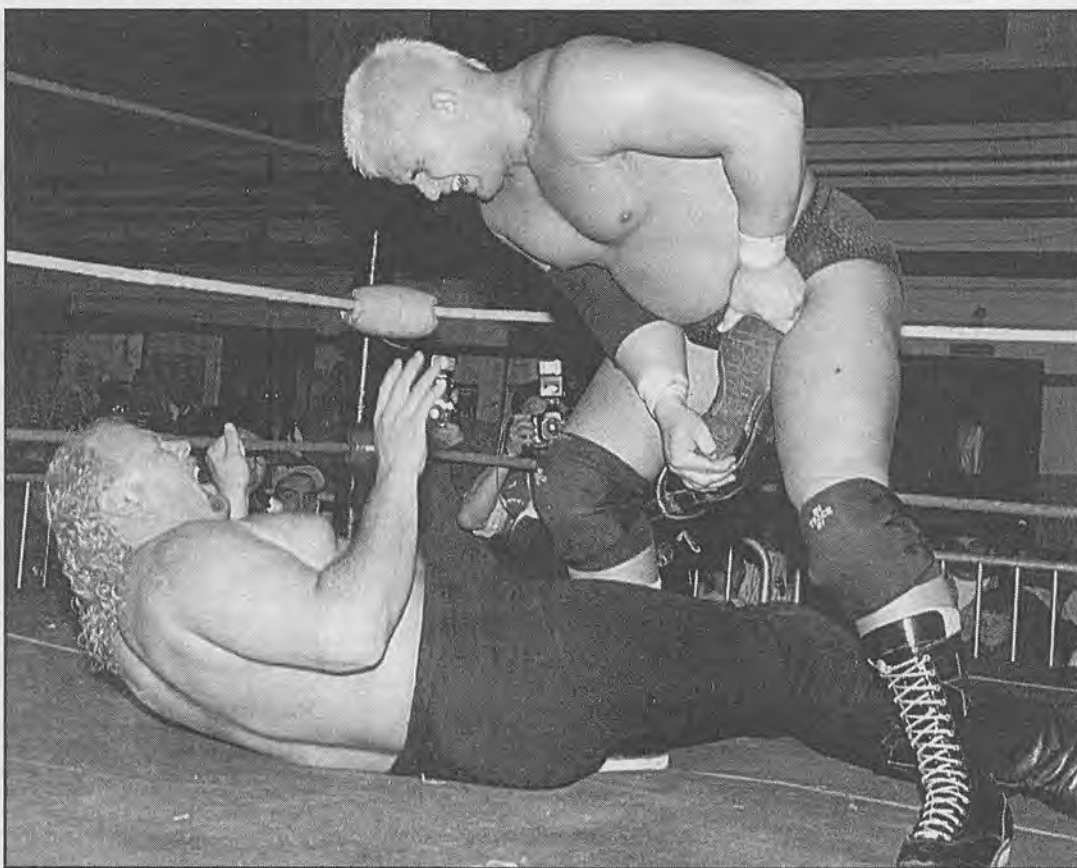
CANDIDO: See? He's already given up on becoming the NWA champion, because he knows he doesn't stand a chance. So he goes out and gets Cactus Jack and thinks he'll hurt me that way. I

respect Cactus. He's a great wrestler and a guy who absolutely isn't afraid to take chances. He's even inspired me in a lot of ways. But I've got a solid partner in Boo Bradley. A lot of people don't know much about Boo, but they will soon. Me and Boo are already taking care of Cactus and Lee. It won't be easy, mainly because of Cactus, but I know we're going to

lot better than I do. She knows what he is and isn't capable of. He's overrated, but he's still dangerous. He's desperate, so he might try anything. But we always have our guard up.

LENKER: It doesn't sound like your manager has complete confidence in your abilities.

CANDIDO: That's the biggest load of bull I've heard from any of



In what was considered an upset by some, Candido beat Smoky Mountain heavyweight champ Tony Anthony in the tournament semifinals. Candido insists he has nothing more to prove against the "Dirty White Boy" and won't pursue his title.

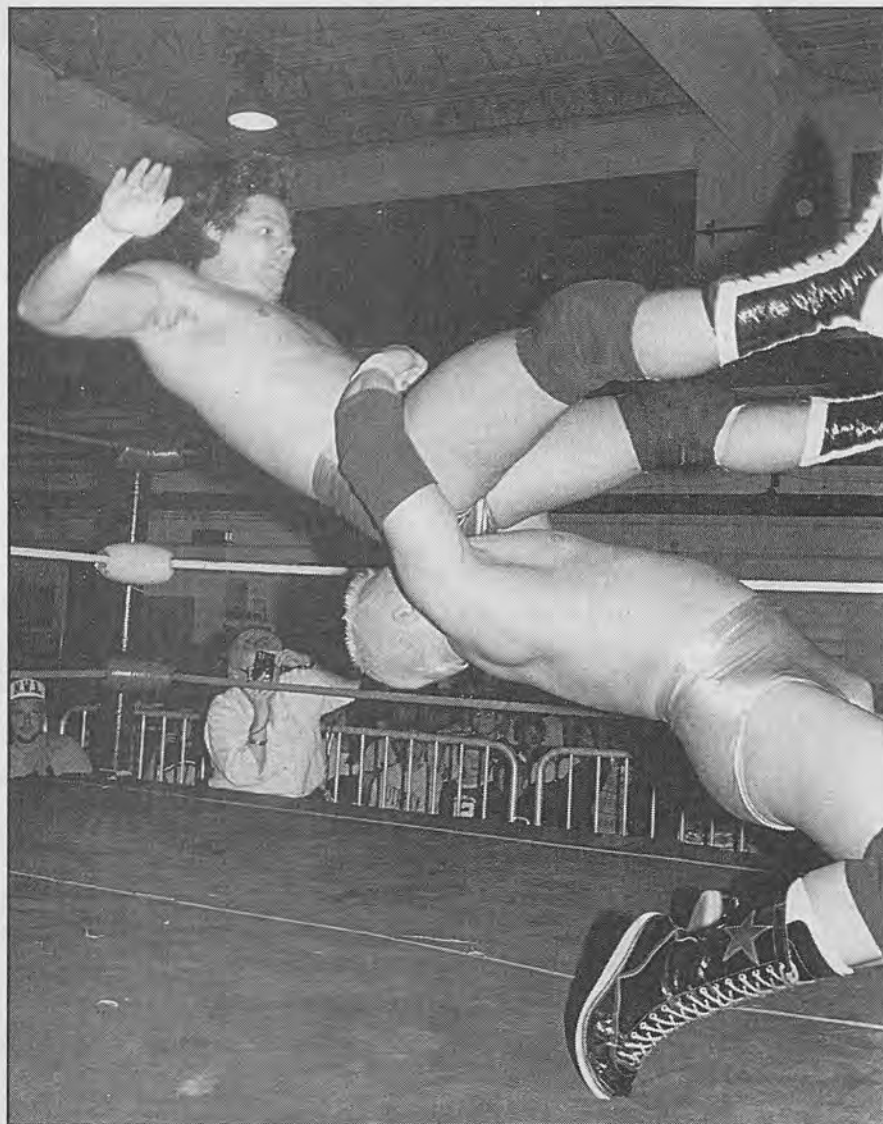
come out on top. So like I said, Lee doesn't scare me.

RODRIGUEZ: Fytch seems to be a lot more concerned about Lee than you are.

CANDIDO: Well, that's her job, to be concerned. She's going to take as many precautions as she can to make sure that I hold on to this belt. She knows Lee a

you guys today! She has total faith in me. I don't ever question that. You know, a lot of people are implying she isn't behind me all the way, and I'm tired of hearing about it. Me and Tammy are solid. No question.

ROSENBAUM: Who else is implying there's trouble between you and Fytch?



Candido suplexes Al Snow in action from the first round of the NWA tournament. He denies rumors that he and Fytch are squabbling, and isn't too concerned about any challengers he may have to face in the future.

CANDIDO: Nobody. I mean, nobody whose opinion means anything. Hey, all you're doing is stirring up stuff. The way things stand right now, I don't have any intention of dumping Tammy as my manager. As long as I'm NWA champion, there shouldn't be any problems between us.

RODRIGUEZ: You mean if you lose the belt, there will be a problem?

CANDIDO: That's not what I said! Man, I'm not even going to try explaining it to you guys. My manager is Tammy Fytch. Period. If you ask me any more about it,

I'm outta here.

LENKER: One of the wrestlers you beat in the tournament was Tony Anthony, the Smoky Mountain champion. He's had his run-ins with Fytch. Think you might go after his title?

CANDIDO: Why even waste my time? I have nothing to prove against Anthony. I already beat him up more times than I can count. He may be a champion, but he's no contender for the belt I hold.

ROSENBAUM: Shane Douglas called the NWA title a piece of garbage. You obviously believe differently.

CANDIDO: That's right. Douglas is an idiot. He threw away his chance for greatness. I didn't make the same mistake. Maybe he didn't have the guts to live up to the reputation of this belt, but I do.

RODRIGUEZ: Will you defend it overseas?

CANDIDO: That's a decision I—I mean, we—still haven't made.

LENKER: Good luck in your title defenses, Chris.

CANDIDO: Why should I need luck? I'm the greatest NWA champion of all-time. □



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between falls

(Continued from page 5)

and there's no phoenix rising from its ashes. Professional wrestling is dominated by the large federations, and in professional wrestling, there is only one rule: Watch your back. The NWA would have dragged ECW down with it, so ECW decided to save itself. Thanks to this move, ECW may now grow and expand to bring its rulebreaking, violent style to everyone who enjoys wrestling the way it was meant to be.

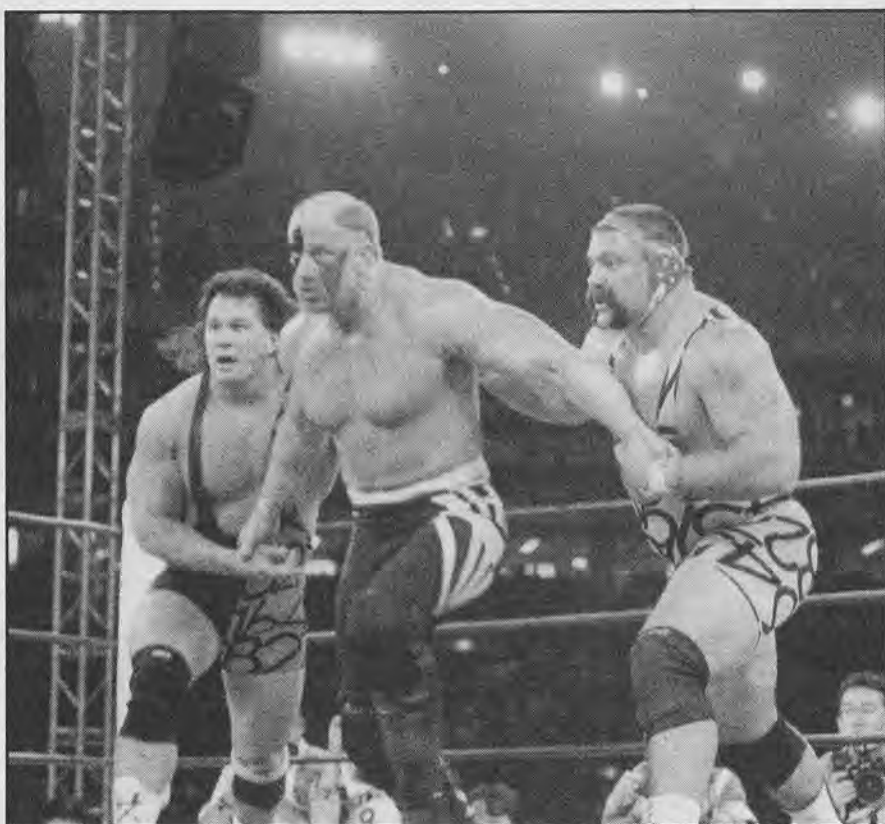
JOHN FLYNN
Drexel Hill, PA

"Pretty Wonderful" look "Very Pitiful," and that match would be a main event anywhere. So, if the Steiners are reading this, I urge them to return to the U.S., because we miss them!

JIMMY NANCE
Asheboro, NC

TRAIL BLAYZER

Alundra Blayze is whining because she wasn't among the top 500 wrestlers in the world ("Why Alundra Wants A Man ... And The WWF Says No,"



It's time for Rick and Scott Steiner (facing Road Warrior Hawk in Japan) to return to America, says reader Jimmy Nance. He thinks they would stand an excellent chance of winning either the WWF or WCW tag titles.

SORELY MISSED STEINERS

I am writing with hope that other fans feel as I do. Rick and Scott Steiner are sorely missed in the WWF and WCW. The Steiners brought excitement to both federations and both tag team titles are ripe for the picking. Rick and Scott would make

January 1995). Why doesn't Ms. Blayze help put women's wrestling on the same level of popularity as men's wrestling? Blayze could have petitioned WWF officials to sanction a women's bout at Survivor Series. She could be fighting to have them schedule a Women's Royal Rumble or even a Queen of the Ring tournament.



Alundra Blayze shouldn't be concerned about being ranked in the "PWI 500," says reader John Feeney. He suggests Blayze focus her efforts on making women's wrestling more popular.

Blayze is an influential person, she could threaten to boycott or organize her own women's federation. Blayze could become the first lady of wrestling, but instead she is trying to become the second woman ranked in the "PWI 500." She should be trying to get a "500" for women.

JOHN FEENEY
Glassboro, NJ

HAVE I SEEN THIS BEFORE?

I cannot understand why anyone actually watches WCW anymore. A few years ago it was my favorite federation because it was kick-butt American wrestling. The WWF had fallen behind because it wanted its wrestling to be great family entertainment, but now everything has turned around.

I don't know if this is merely a coincidence, but have any other intelligent wrestling fans noticed that since Hulk Hogan joined WCW, the promotion has lost irreplaceable talent? WCW is just trying—and failing—to be the WWF of the 1980s, which no one wants to see anymore. A lot of people hate old WWF stars with absolutely no talent—men like Hulk Hogan, Hacksaw Duggan, and Honky Tonk Man. What's next? Sgt. Slaughter, "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig, and The

Ultimate Warrior all arrive to settle old feuds with that bogus champ Hogan?

I have practically stopped watching WCW altogether. It is a joke, and if they lose the talent that they have now, like Steve Austin, Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma, and Lord Steven Regal, I will never watch WCW again!

CAROLINE WATTS
Warwickshire, England □



WCW is in jeopardy of losing a fan in reader Caroline Watts. She is sick of seeing "no-talent" ex-WWF stars like Hacksaw Duggan hogging the glory in the federation.

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ringside

(Continued from page 7)



The wrestling world is mourning the death of "Love Machine" Art Barr. The 28-year-old wrestler, who competed mainly in AAA and his native Oregon, died in his sleep in November.

Cody Wade is afraid to give him a rematch. Wade won the title from Pride several months ago.

From the Old Feuds Never Die Department: **Dory Funk Jr.** is feuding with **Abdullah the Butcher** in

Japan ... **Owen Hart** and **Bob Backlund**, who are now the best of friends, have brought **Shawn Michaels** into their fold. Along with **Jim Neidhart**, they are planning to continue to make life miserable for **Bret Hart** ... **Dutch Mantel**, the current World Wrestling Council TV champion, says he is sick of the way the WWC protects Universal champion **Carlos Colon**. "He has his bud-

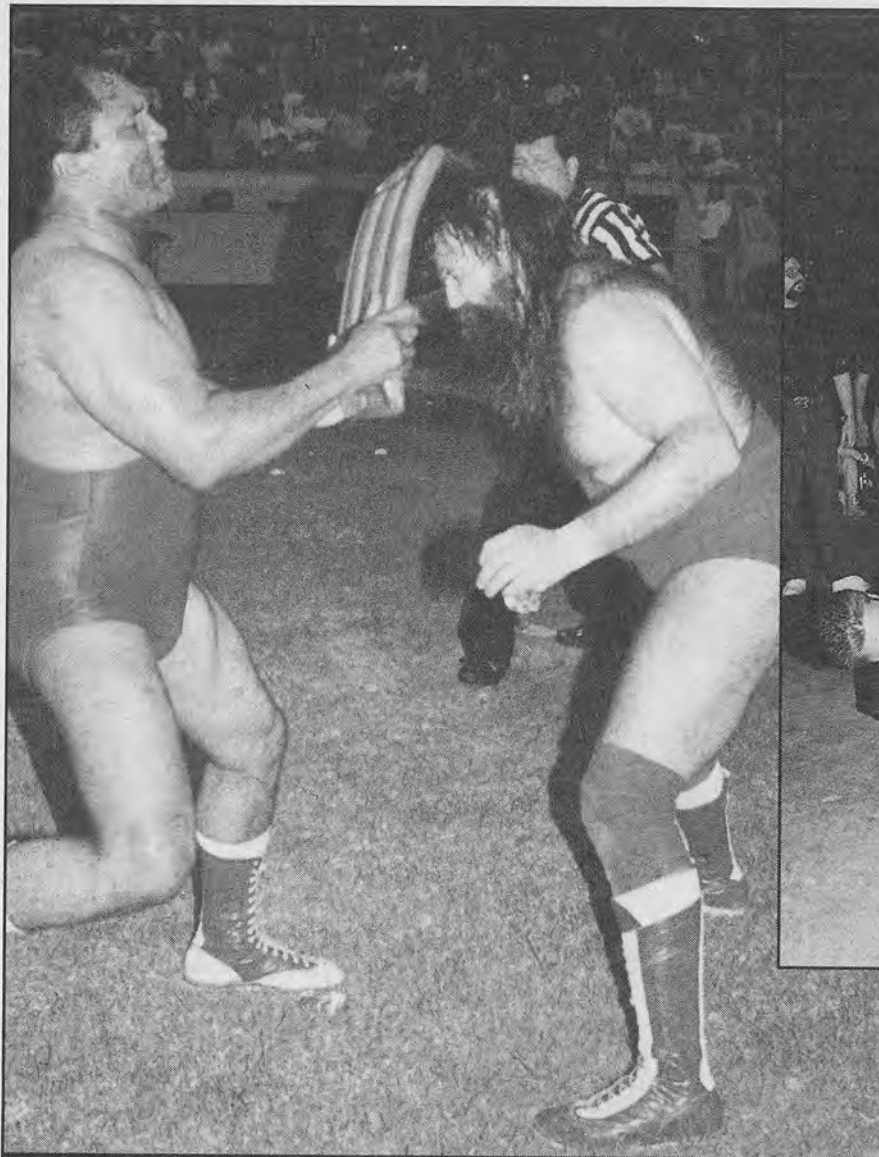
dies like **La Ley**, **Invader**, and **Hurricane Castillo Jr.** at ringside to help him. But if I want to bring **Abdullah** or **El Bronco** or **Mohammed Hussein** to the ring, WWC officials toss them out! That's a bum deal!"

USWA heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious** is growing tired of other organizations sending in their wrestlers to go after him and his title. "I don't call them talent, I call them bums. The WWF sends **Lex Luger**, **The Undertaker**, **Adam Bomb**, and **Men On A Mission**. Smoky Mountain sends **Tony Anthony**. These guys are amateurs! They don't deserve title matches against me!"

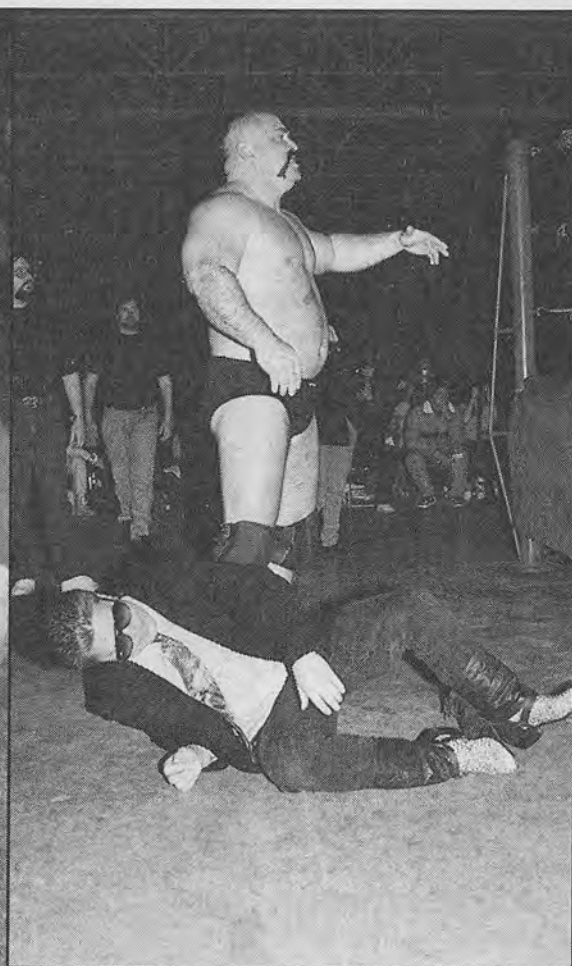
Woman is working out with a martial arts coach in the event ECW signs her to wrestle **Peaches**. Peaches has studied karate in the past and wants to rid the federation of Woman for good. "We hated each other from the minute we laid eyes on one another," Peaches said. "It's time for a showdown." Woman manages **Sandman**, Peaches estranged husband.

Have you noticed that **Brutus Beefcake** is still wrestling in several independent federations in addition to his regular WCW appearances? "It's the best way to get close to the people, the fans, and tell them firsthand what a low-down snake in the grass **Hulk Hogan** is," he explained. "You wouldn't believe how many people hate Hogan. It's so refreshing to be around people who share your ideas."

And have you seen how much more aggressive **Stevie Ray** and **Booker T—Harlem Heat**—have been since **Sherri Martel** took over as their manager? World tag team champions **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** and **The Patriot** have.



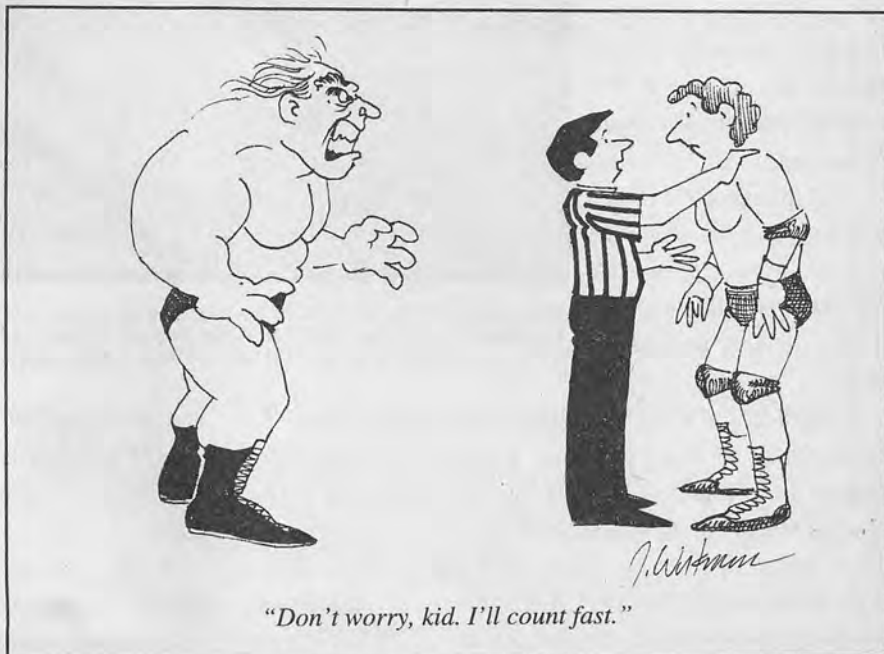
The WWC feud between Universal champ Carlos Colon and TV champ Dutch Mantel is continuing in earnest in Puerto Rico. Mantel is furious that Colon's friends are allowed to stand at ringside during his matches.



Bruiser Bedlam protests after his Motor City manager, "Handsome" Johnny Bradford, was attacked by Bobo Brazil Jr., who is threatening to leave the promotion if something isn't done about Bradford's interference.

"They have given us and **The Nasty Boys** more trouble than any other team to come along in quite some time," Bagwell admitted. "They are a real threat to our belts" ... **Bobo Brazil Jr.** has told Motor City Wrestling officials that if they don't keep "**Handsome**" **Johnny Bradford**, **Bruiser Bedlam's** MCW manager, from interfering in his matches, he will leave the federation.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □



mob violence

(Continued from page 34)

"Yeah, I got burned," Sullivan admitted. "I swear to you that will *never* happen again!"

Now Dave is firmly ensconced in Hogan's camp, but Kevin is a much more dangerous threat. He has Avalanche, and he has Brutus Beefcake.

"Sullivan pulled off a couple of master strokes," said Sting. "There's no other way to put it."

Several years ago, Avalanche and Hogan feuded mightily. Avalanche hurt Hogan so badly in one epic encounter that the "Hulkster" nearly had to retire from the sport. Those who know Avalanche well say he is driven by the feeling that he never finished off Hogan.

"Sullivan is giving him the chance to finish the job," said ex-partner Typhoon, "and he intends to make the most of it."

Perhaps the greater threat to Hogan is posed by his longtime friend Brutus Beefcake—"The Butcher," as he now demands to be called. Whatever his name, Beefcake's shocking turn against his old pal moved Sullivan dramatically closer to his goal.

"Psychologically, Hogan was really shaken by what Brutus did," said Sting. "He told me it was like someone drove a dagger through his heart."

Together, Sullivan, Avalanche, and Beefcake are The Three Faces of Fear. They are giving Hogan one of the mightiest challenges of his life. The World champ is in trouble, but that is not enough for Sullivan. He doesn't want just Three Faces of Fear, he wants three dozen. In his zeal to drive Hogan out of the sport, Sullivan has put out the word: If you hate Hulk Hogan, come on down!

"There are 100 guys who have grudges against Hogan," claimed Sullivan, "and every one of them is welcome to join my team! I don't even care if they hate me. As long as they hate Hogan more, that's all that counts!"

Already, Sullivan has contacted dozens of old Hogan rivals. Most are men who feuded with Hogan when he held the World title in the WWF.

"Yeah, I did hear from Sullivan," said Don Muraco.

"What do I think? I'm undecided. But if I do come back, Hogan better watch it!"

"Mr. Kevin Sullivan is very serious man," said The Iron Sheik, who lost the WWF World belt to Hogan 11 years ago and has since faded from the spotlight. "I could still do a lot of damage with these hands, with these boots, and with my camel clutch!"

Two of Sullivan's fellow WCW competitors, Paul Orndorff and The Honky Tonk Man, also say Sullivan's call to arms excites them.

"Hogan double-crossed me!" claimed Orndorff. "I'll never forgive him for that! He thinks maybe I've forgotten, but I haven't! I'll gladly pound his skull any chance I get ... for Sullivan's sake and my own!"

Sullivan wants them all. He especially wants Randy Savage. The "Macho Man" and Hogan were great friends in the WWF, but they also feuded viciously

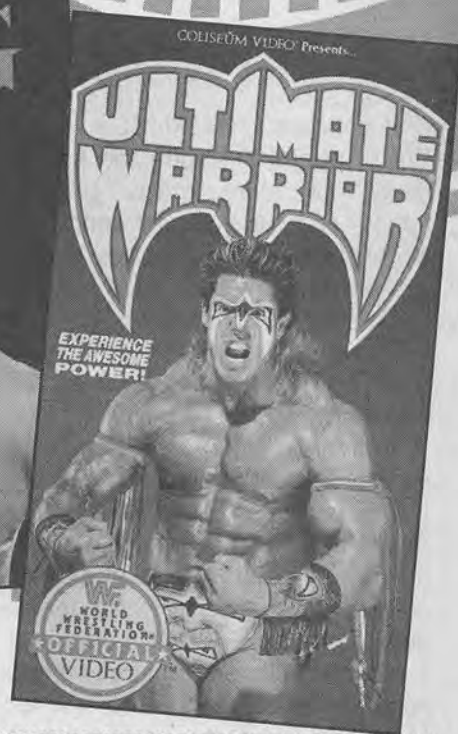
and never settled their differences. "No question Savage would give Sullivan his greatest weapon," said Tony Schiavone. "It'll be very interesting to see how that plays out."

Savage or not, Sullivan is building a formidable mob against Hogan. And that mob is getting more unruly and deadly by the day!



Right now, Sting appears to be the only ally Hogan can count on, but for how long? Sullivan and company will run roughshod over him, too, if he gets in the way of their sinister plan.

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from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

If you are a stockholder in the WWF (again, I'm speaking figuratively; Titan stocks are not publicly traded) and the sight of Kwang having his hand raised in victory makes you nervous, my best advice to you is don't panic. Hold on to your investment. Things may appear bleak right now, but WWF is a blue chip stock; it will rise again.

Contrary to popular belief, which I repeated sarcastically in the opening line of this column, the WWF is not dead. In fact, if I could again speak metaphorically about wrestling stocks, right now would be a terrific time to buy WWF. Coming off a year in which it suffered disastrous public relations defeats (even a win for McMahon in his steroid trial was a loss) and the defection of Hulk Hogan and others to its primary competitor, the WWF is a shell of its former self. Invest now at a low price and watch your investment grow.

You can't be serious, you must be thinking. What hope is there for a federation that features Doink, Dink, Wink, and Pink?

A valid question, for sure. Perhaps the answer is that there is no



Isn't the WWF embarrassed that two of its biggest stars are Doink the Clown and Dink, his midget friend? The answer is no, and just because the WWF lacks talent now doesn't mean it won't rise again.

hope. If the WWF is going to reverse its downward spiral, it is first going to have to take a long hard look at its product and patrons. What exactly does the wrestling fan in 1995 want? To be perfectly honest, I'm not quite sure of the answer to that question myself. I know what I want: fast, highly athletic, innovative competitors. I don't want ECW ultra-violence, Smoky Mountain ultra-controversy, or WCW ultra-nostalgia.

The WWF of 1995 is the Dallas Cowboys of 1989. Remember? The Cowboys were a horrendous 1-15 that year, and everybody who hated the self-proclaimed "America's Team" rejoiced. The celebration did not last long, however. In 1990, the Cowboys were 7-9. By 1991, they

were 11-5 and back in the playoffs. In 1992 and 1993, they won the Super Bowl.

Even the best sports franchises have losing years, but the best indication of a winning organization is how long it takes to get back on top after a losing year. Make a few good trades (Herschel Walker to the Viking for a zillion top draft picks certainly helped), make the right draft choices, make sure you have a coach (Jimmy Johnson) who knows how to build a program, and you, too, can make a 1-15 team a 13-3 team in three years.

The WWF is a winning organization. History tells us that, so until it proves otherwise, I'm inclined to think history will repeat itself. The

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This is a scene you're likely to see repeated soon ... in WCW. Ex-WWF stars Randy Savage and Brutus Beefcake have both defected to WCW. But the promotion might find out that the WWF of 1985 won't work in the WCW of 1995.

WWF will right itself because it has smart leadership. If Vince McMahon was proclaimed a genius in the 1980s, what makes him any less of a genius in the 1990s?

Personally, I don't think he was a genius then and I don't think he's a genius now. I see him as a smart businessman who had a vision and had the guts to risk everything to get where he wanted to be. He made mistakes—lots of them—and continues to do so. But he did not panic last year when it looked like he would be trading in his collared lapels for stripes. And he is not on the ledge of Titan Tower right now. He's making plans. He's cutting loose some of his high-priced talent (and probably

laughing as WCW powers assume a financial burden that might one day strangle them). He's having meetings with the same advisers who helped him reshape the sport of wrestling in the '80s. No, he may not be viewed as a genius anymore, but by the same token, he hasn't become stupid overnight, either.

And before the suits at CNN Center become too full of themselves and think that they have conquered the world by signing the same men who made the WWF a success in the '80s, maybe they should take a good, hard look at themselves as well. And perhaps they should take a look at the calendar. It is 1995, and what worked for the WWF in the '80s didn't work all that well in the 1990s. What, gentleman, have you bought with all your money?

As bad as things appear to be for the WWF right now, that's where I'd invest my money. □

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

The talent was there. In the view of many, he had wrestled better than he ever did as WCW World champion. No wonder, then, that Luger became mightily frustrated with life in the WWF. He pondered a sharp turn back to rulebreaking. Why not? He had achieved so much without the support of the fans. He was tempted, but decided he couldn't return to his old, destructive ways.

As he feuds with Tatanka, a former friend, Luger wonders whether he made the correct decision.

"In one sense," said former Luger rival Michael Hayes, "I think Lex just loves getting in there and beating on somebody. He likes a good, old-fashioned feud and he's in one now. I don't know if Tatanka realizes what he's inspired in Lex. Tatanka stirred up a lot of trouble for himself.

"But it doesn't look like Lex is satisfied with this," Hayes continued. "He knows there's so much more for him out there. He knows that as long as he's engaged with this feud, he's not moving any closer to a championship. He knows he has to make some kind of move."

A move to where? Toward rule-breaking again? Toward the World championship or the Intercontinental title? Toward bodybuilding? These are the decisions facing the man who was supposed to dominate the sport. One veteran of the bodybuilding circuit says he thinks Luger has a great future posing on the stage, but a greater one if he stays in the ring.

"Luger certainly has the physique to be a competitive bodybuilder," he

offered. "From what I hear, he loves spending hours in the gym, trying to perfect each body part. No one questions his dedication.

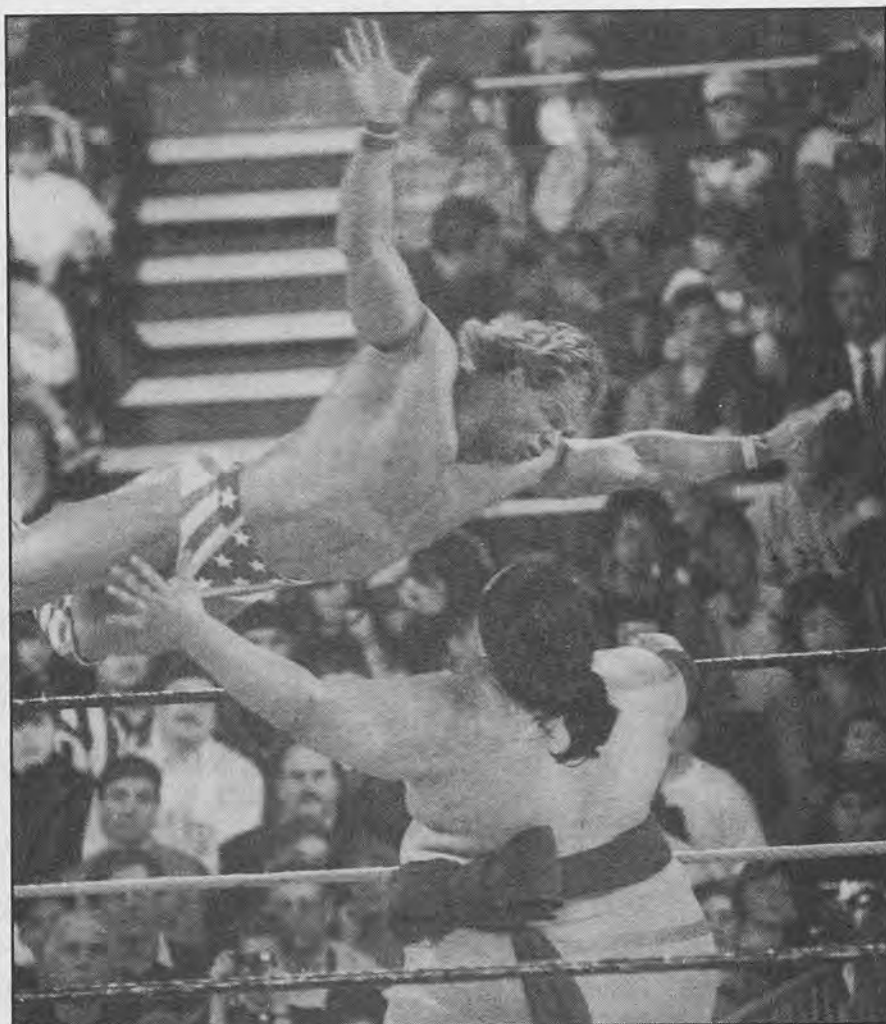
"Having said that," he added, "there are so many outstanding bodybuilders in the game today. The environment is even more competitive than it is in wrestling. And before Lex ever got the chance to compete in a big contest like the Mr. Olympia or Mr. Universe, he'd have to win some of the lesser-known contests. I doubt he would be willing to do that. In wrestling,

he's among the elite. As far as bodybuilding, he isn't even close."

In the latest version of the "PW 500," Luger was rated number 17. In our estimation, there are only 16 wrestlers in the sport better than him. Luger and his supporters may believe he should be ranked higher, but that still is a stellar rating.

For now, Luger's place is in the squared circle. The WWF World title should remain his highest goal. Luger is good enough to be champion of the wrestling world.

Don't give up on him yet. □



No one can say Luger didn't have his shots at the World title. He came up short against then-champion Yokozuna on two pay-per-views. Some people still question whether his heart is really in wrestling.

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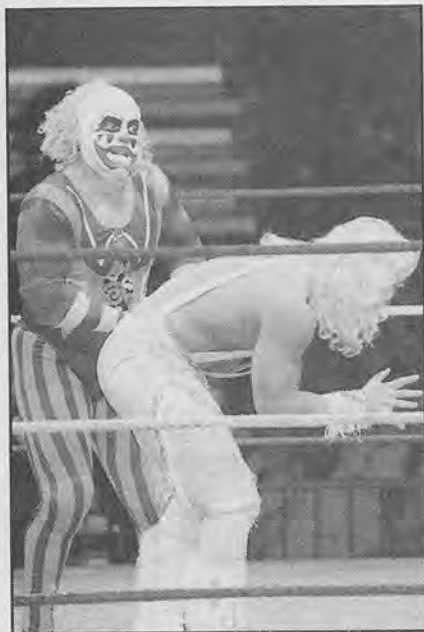
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off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)

with mediocre wrestlers. If you're going to be groupies, at least tackle the top 25. Or join **Wrestlers Anonymous**. Or form a grunge duo. Spring 'n' Shane has a nice ring to it.



Who is the better wrestler: Doink or Hulk Hogan? Doink, by a longshot. Now the more important question: Which one is more of a clown? That one, my friends, is too close to call.

Dear Eddie,

Why is everyone knocking the WWF? The only real disappointments are Doink the Clown, Dink, and Abe "Knuckleball" Schwartz. Ponder this: Even those silly men have more moves than Hulk Hogan ever used. I'm not saying they're better than Hogan, but they sure are more fun to watch. As far as I'm concerned, with Hogan now champion of WCW, they should change the name of the federation to "We Can't Wrestle."

DAVE HITCHENS
Toms River, NJ

Dear Dave,

I want nothing more than to concede your very rational point,

but since yours was among the first letters I opened, the possibility of you having anything intelligent to say hardly exists.

Dear Eddie,

Do you think it was a mistake for Ric Flair to put his career on the line against Hulk Hogan at Halloween Havoc?

KENNETH HOCKADAY
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Kenneth,

Would you invest your life's savings in a poker game in which the cards were marked and the dealer crooked?

Dear Eddie,

When are promoters going to wise up and stop trying to civilize wrestling? If fans wanted culture, they'd go to the opera. Personally, I prefer an evening with the Funk brothers to an evening at the Met. Thanks for letting me blow off steam.

ELIJA VANN
Sweetwater, TN

Dear Elija,

If a precondition of citizenship was to identify the "Met," 85 percent of all wrestling fans would be making their homes overseas. Since you conveniently don't cite any examples, I'm not sure what you mean by the promoters' attempt to civilize wrestling. In the past year, I've seen exposed barbed-wire matches, sharpened brass knuckle Texas death matches, not to mention an attempted Dusty Rhodes comeback. What could be less civilized than that?

Dear Eddie,

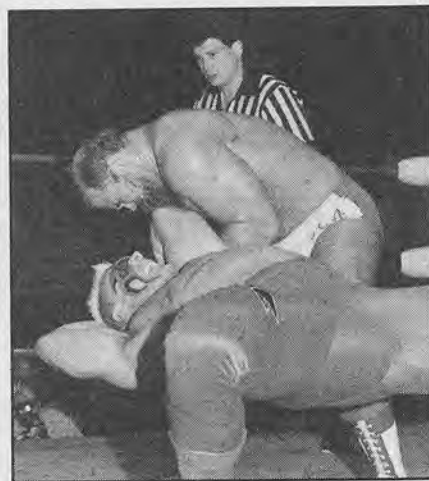
I'm here to say that wrestling

fans have betrayed Arn Anderson. For months, they encouraged him to go back to his old ways, and when he did, they booed him out of the ring. His biggest mistake was joining Col. Rob Parker's Stud Stable and not seeking his dream to re-form The Four Horsemen. Please print this letter. Use my initials only.

GREG HUM
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Dear G.H.,

I didn't have to print this letter. Certainly no one but myself would know it was the sixth one I opened. I could have sent it to its appropriate resting place in the circular file. I could have papered the area under Bill Apter's desk. I could have made a paper airplane from it and given it to a small child. But I am a man of my word. It made the cut, so here it is. I did, however, inform the Canadian Mounties of Greg's exact address. I assure you, dear readers, he will no longer be a problem. □



I really admire Arn Anderson. He's his own man. He does what he feels like doing and doesn't care what people think. Of course, I admire just about anyone who beats the heck out of Sting on a regular basis.

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October 1992/CENTERFOLD: Cactus Jack. Warrior-Savage, Williams, Z-Man, WWF titles, fire match.
January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. Flair/Summerslam, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.
February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. Ramon, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.
April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. Steiners, Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

May 1993/CENTERFOLD: Undertaker. WrestleMania IX Preview, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri.
July 1993/CENTERFOLD: Davey Boy Smith. Hulk Hogan, Vader, Yokozuna, Hart Slamboree, Flair-Rude.
September 1993/CENTERFOLD: Paul Orndorff. Sting & Hogan, Luger, Sherri-Shango, Blonds.
November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. WCW Midyear Report, Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.
January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. Doink, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Comette, Vicious.
February 1994/CENTERFOLD: Sid Vicious. WWF or WCW-Who's Better?, Race-Rhodes, Hogan-Muta, Hart.
April 1994/CENTERFOLD: Nasty Boys. Flair-Hogan-Hart, Rude, Kevin Von, Michaels, steroids.
May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. Yokozuna-Luger, Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.
July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. Razor Ramon, Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.
August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. Bret Hart/WrestleMania X, Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.
October 1994/CENTERFOLD: Owen Hart. All-Star Challenge, Sting, Savage, Hennig, Fyeh, WWF in Japan.
November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. Hogan In WCW, Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.
Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. Hulkamania Wild Again, McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.
January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. Tatanka, Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.
February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. WCW Civil War, Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret.

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Scouting report

HOMETOWN: Montreal, Quebec

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 504

YEARS AS PRO: 6

RATING: No. 99 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- Balance. Has extensive sumo experience; tough to knock down.
- Sit-down splash. Once he executes this "move," no opponent gets up.
- Sweats profusely. Difficult for opponents to hold on to him.

WEAKNESSES:

- Insecure. Allied with rulebreakers because he felt uncomfortable by himself in a new federation.
- Lacks continuity. Rarely executes a series of moves crisply.
- Deluded. Wrongly believes that every opponent is intimidated by him.

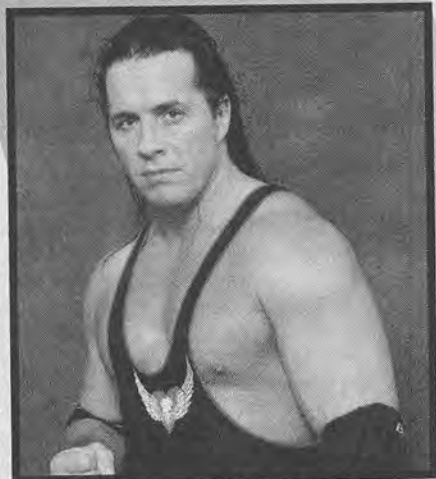
OTHER COMMENTS: Former sumo wrestler had a memorable feud with Hulk Hogan in the WWF in the mid-1980s ... He and Typhoon won the WWF World tag team title from Money Inc. in February 1992 ... Wrestled in Japan for several months, then returned to the WWF last year ... Briefly feuded with Yokozuna before suffering an injury ... Currently part of the Three Faces of Fear.

OUTLOOK FOR 1995: Formerly known as Earthquake, Avalanche appears to be more intent on destroying Hulk Hogan than winning any WCW titles. He is now wrestling a series of matches against Sting, but if Hogan continues to reign as World champ, he could seek title matches. Avalanche may have a very predictable style, but any man who weighs more than 500 pounds is tough to beat.

AVALANCHE



BRET HART



HOMETOWN: Calgary, Alberta

HEIGHT: 5'11"

WEIGHT: 234

YEARS AS PRO: 18

RATING: No. 1 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- Stamina. Can wrestle for 60 minutes without losing much effectiveness.
- "Sharpshooter." No one has been able to counter his leglock.
- Versatile. Stellar scientific wrestler, underrated brawler.

WEAKNESSES:

- Nagging injuries. Recent shoulder and knee problems haven't gone away.
- Overconfident. He is great, but probably not "the best there ever was."
- Emotionally spent. Wars with family members have taken their toll.

OTHER COMMENTS: Two-time WWF World champion, Intercontinental champ, and WWF tag team champ has also been rated number-one in "PWI 500" the last two years ... Entered the WWF in 1984 as a fan favorite, then quickly turned rulebreaker under Jimmy Hart's guidance ... Feuded with brother Owen and brother-in-law Jim Neidhart for most of 1994 ... Will appear in several episodes of *Lonesome Dove* in 1995.

OUTLOOK FOR 1995: Though he lost the WWF World title to Bob Backlund in a controversial match at Survivor Series, "The Hitman" is still widely regarded as the best all-around wrestler in the world. New champion Diesel has stated publicly that Bret will get shots at the title when he wants them. The first time Hart lost the World title—to Yokozuna at WrestleMania IX—Hulk Hogan won it two minutes later and Hart was unable to secure a match with him. He won't allow that to happen again.

HOMETOWN: Perry, GA
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 260
YEARS AS PRO: 8
RATING: No. 98 ("PWI 500")
STRENGTHS:

- Adapts well. Is comfortable wrestling in Japan and in wild ECW matches.

- Leg strength. Few wrestlers have a more powerful lower body.

- Amateur background. Applies college football and wrestling knowledge to pro career.

WEAKNESSES:

- Uncommitted. Can't decide if he's a fan favorite or a rule-breaker.

- Unmotivated. Former world champ no longer striving to win another world belt.

- Lacks intensity. Hasn't regained inner fire since losing WCW World belt.

OTHER COMMENTS: Former WCW World champ was a two-time All-American football player at Florida State ... Played on the same USFL team with Lex Luger ... Simmons and Butch Reed were once collectively known as Doom; they upset Rick and Scott Steiner for the WCW World tag belts in 1990 ... Currently feuding with ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas.

OUTLOOK FOR 1995: "All-American" is determined to win the ECW belt from Douglas and should never be taken lightly. Simmons is a very powerful wrestler, but he seems to have an attitude problem.

RON SIMMONS



HONKY TONK MAN



HOMETOWN: Memphis, TN
HEIGHT: 6'1"

WEIGHT: 278

YEARS AS PRO: 15

RATING: No. 349 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- Shake, rattle, 'n' roll. Swinging neck-breaker still an effective finisher.

- Focused. Knows what he can accomplish and doesn't care what anyone thinks.

- Paces himself. Wrestles sparingly, saving energy for key matches.

WEAKNESSES:

- Conditioning. Hasn't worked hard to keep himself in top shape and it shows.

- Loner. Has no close allies and could use a manager.

- Leg drive. Lacking in lower body strength; struggles to repel foes' charges.

OTHER COMMENTS: Considers himself the world's best wrestler and entertainer ... Still holds the record for longest WWF Intercontinental reign. Beat Rick Steamboat for the belt in June 1986 and kept it until August 1987 ...

Was managed by Jimmy Hart in the WWF ... First cousin of Jerry Lawler ... Loves to play the guitar and sing after winning his matches.

OUTLOOK FOR 1995: Continues to pursue the WCW TV title, which is currently held by Johnny B. Badd. He may be annoying, but Honky Tonk Man is a talented wrestler. No one took him seriously in the WWF, even after he won the I-C belt. Until he puts an end to his Elvis Presley wannabe act, that probably won't change. Don't be surprised, though, if he does win the TV belt.

em. He's not a very versatile wrestler; his best move is a powerslam and he would probably stand a better chance of winning more titles if he added some new moves to his repertoire.

HOMETOWN: Atlantic City, NJ

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 446

YEARS AS PRO: 18

RATING: No. 181 ("PWI 500")

STRENGTHS:

- Cocky. Still insists referees give him five-counts.

- Powerful head. Uses it as a spear to wear down foes.

- Unusual physique. Opponents have a hard time applying basic holds on him.

WEAKNESSES:

- Ring rust. Spent too many years away from the ring.

- Egomaniacal. Has had trouble fitting in with Ted DiBiase's Corporation.

- Balance. Struggles to regain his feet after being knocked down.

OTHER COMMENTS: Attended Larry Sharpe's Monster Factory ... Beat Kerry Von Erich for the World Class American heavyweight title in 1982 ... Feuded with Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan in the WWF in the mid-1980s ... Was once managed by Jimmy Hart and Bobby Heenan ... At one time he offered \$15,000 to anyone who could bodyslam him ... Once guest-starred in the sitcom *Married ... With Children* ... Wrestled in Eastern independents for several years before returning to the WWF in 1994.

OUTLOOK FOR 1995: A member of Ted DiBiase's Corporation, Bundy has received a few shots at the World title since returning to the WWF. He remains one of the federation's most dangerous big men, but his lack of mobility causes him problems. He is much slower than he was 10 years ago. Nevertheless, when you're as big and fearless as Bundy, you're capable of beating anyone.

KING KONG BUNDY



PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED®

PWI's Top 10



Razor Ramon

TOP 10

- 1 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
(-) WWF World champion
- 2 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
(2) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 3 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
(4) WCW World champion
- 4 KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
(8) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
- 5 THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
(7) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 6 JOHNNY B. BADD**
235, Macon, GA
(9) WCW TV champion
- 7 BOB BACKLUND**
234, Princeton, MN
(6) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 8 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(5) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 9 TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnort, TN
(-) Smoky Mountain champion
- 10 LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2 THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(6) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 3 THE HEAVENLY BODIES**
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 4 BAM BAM BIGELOW & TATANKA**
Combined weight: 618 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 5 THE GANGSTAS**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
(9) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 6 HARLEM HEAT**
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(3) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(5) No. 2 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title
- 8 THE BUSHWHACKERS**
Combined weight: 499 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 9 PUBLIC ENEMY**
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(7) ECW tag team champions
- 10 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(4) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
(1) 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 2—JOHNNY B. BADD**
(2) 235, Macon, GA
- 3—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
(9) 273, San Francisco, CA
- 4—STING**
(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—BIG VAN VADER**
(4) 450, Denver, CO
- 6—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
(7) 278, Memphis, TN
- 7—AVALANCHE**
(5) 502, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—DUSTIN RHODES**
(8) 254, Austin, TX
- 9—ARN ANDERSON**
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—KEVIN SULLIVAN**
(-) 252, Boston, MA

WWF

World Champion:
DIESEL

(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

- 1—RAZOR RAMON**
(1) 287, Miami, FL
- 2—KING KONG BUNDY**
(3) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 3—BOB BACKLUND**
(4) 234, Princeton, MN
- 4—THE UNDERTAKER**
(2) 328, parts unknown
- 5—LEX LUGER**
(7) 265, Chicago, IL
- 6—DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(6) 245, Leeds, England
- 7—TATANKA**
(8) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 8—MABEL**
(10) 503, Harlem, NY
- 9—OWEN HART**
(5) 227, Calgary, Alberta
- 10—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
(9) 248, Syracuse, NY

USWA

USWA Champion:
SID VICIOUS

(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

- 1—TOMMY RICH**
(1) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—JERRY LAWLER**
(4) 234, Memphis, TN
- 3—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
(3) 230, Memphis, TN
- 4—DOUG GILBERT**
(5) 241, Lexington, TN
- 5—BILL DUNDEE**
(6) 219, Melbourne, Australia
- 6—SPELLBINDER**
(7) 246, parts unknown
- 7—BUDDY LANDELL**
(2) 236, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—JEFF GAYLORD**
(8) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 9—DOUG BASHAM**
(9) 228, Memphis, TN
- 10—TROY GRAHAM**
(-) 237, Memphis, TN

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS

(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1—RON SIMMONS**
(1) 260, Perry, GA
- 2—SABU**
(2) 220, Bombay
- 3—DEAN MALENKO**
(3) 216, Tampa, FL
- 4—TOMMY DREAMER**
(4) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 5—TASMANIAC**
(5) 221, Tasmania
- 6—911**
(6) 310, parts unknown
- 7—2 COLD SCORPIO**
(7) 222, Denver, CO
- 8—THE SANDMAN**
(8) 244, Philadelphia, PA
- 9—BRIAN PILLMAN**
(9) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 10—TOMMY CAIRO**
(10) 257, Philadelphia, PA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 THE UNDERTAKER**
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 7 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 8 LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
- 9 JOHNNY B. BADD**
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 DUSTIN RHODES**
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BOB BACKLUND**
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3 TATANKA**
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 4 JIM NEIDHART**
275, Tampa, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 HONKY TONK MAN**
278, Memphis, TN
Last issue: unrated
- 7 SHAWN MICHAELS**
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 OWEN HART**
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
- 9 KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
Last issue: unrated
- 10 SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
TONY ANTHONY
(C) 235, Bucksport, TN

- 1—BRUISER BEDLAM**
(4) 235, Newark, NJ
- 2—BRYANT ANDERSON**
(7) 240, Atlanta, GA
- 3—TRACEY SMOTHERS**
(2) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 4—RICK MORTON**
(-) 228, Memphis, TN
- 5—CHRIS CANDIDO**
(1) 226, Carteret, NJ
- 6—BRIAN LEE**
(6) 251, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—CACTUS JACK**
(9) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 8—BOO BRADLEY**
(5) 310, parts unknown
- 9—LANCE STORM**
(10) 231, Memphis, TN
- 10—BOBBY BLAZE**
(8) 222, Charlotte, NC

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:
TOSHIKI KAWADA
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan

- 1—STEVE WILLIAMS**
(1) 265, Norman, OK
- 2—SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
(2) 287, Gisu, Japan
- 3—MITSU HARU MISAWA**
(3) 247, Saitama, Japan
- 4—BIG VAN VADER**
(4) 450, Denver, CO
- 5—NOBUHIKO TAKADA**
(5) 231, Yokohama, Japan
- 6—KONNAN**
(6) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
- 7—KENTA KOBASHI**
(7) 261, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—CHRIS BENOIT**
(8) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 9—STAN HANSEN**
(9) 322, Borger, TX
- 10—PERRO AGUAYO**
(10) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico

For period ended December 9, 1994

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1—BRET HART | 87 points |
| 2—HULK HOGAN | 62 points |
| 3—RAZOR RAMON | 56 points |
| 4—RIC FLAIR | 53 points |
| 5—STING | 52 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—THE NASTY BOYS | 69 points |
| 2—THE HEADSHRINKERS | 66 points |
| 3—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT | 56 points |
| 4—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA | 53 points |
| 5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS | 40 points |

AAA: AAA Champion—Perro Aguayo; 1—El Hijo Del Santo; 2—Octagon; 3—Konnan; 4—Eddy Guerrero; 5—Rey Mysterio Jr.; 6—La Parka; 7—Fuerza Guerrera; 8—Blue Panther; 9—Pscosis; 10—Cien Caras.

ACW: ACW Champion—I. Rantula; 1—Hacksaw Duggan; 2—Tito Santana; 3—Rick Martel; 4—Johnny Gunn; 5—Mr. Hughes; 6—Glenn Osbourne; 7—Max Thrasher; 8—Lord Zoltan; 9—Johnny Graham; 10—Scotty Flamingo.

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Tito Santana; 1—Greg Valentine; 2—Tony Atlas; 3—Jimmy Snuka; 4—Rick Martel; 5—The Funny Clown; 6—Metal Maniac; 7—Jim Powers; 8—Cousin Luke; 9—Gino Caruso; 10—Hacksaw Duggan.

MTW: MTW Champion—Machine Gun Kelly; 1—Johnny Paradise; 2—Chris Carter; 3—Rock Stevens; 4—Al Snow; 5—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 6—J.T. Lightning; 7—Scott Summers; 8—Denny Kass; 9—Mohammed Saad; 10—Bastion Booger.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Tommy Ferrara; 2—Punisher; 3—Randy Gusto; 4—J.B. Trask; 5—Storm Trooper Aaron; 6—Hawk; 7—Charlie Norris; 8—Jerry Lynn; 9—Blake Beverly; 10—Storm Trooper Willie.

PWF: PWF Champion—Italian Stallion; 1—Russian Assassin II; 2—Terry Austin; 3—Austin Steele; 4—Star Ryder; 5—Chris Hamrick; 6—Black Scorpion; 7—Masked Maniac; 8—Flaming Youth; 9—Tyrone Knox; 10—Cruel Connection II.

WWA: WWA Champion—Frank Finnegan; 1—Paul White; 2—Ed Atlas; 3—Gus the Greek; 4—Akita Kaos; 5—Jim McPherson; 6—East L.A.; 7—John Rotten; 8—Jason Headings; 9—Scott The Body; 10—Abdullah Singh.

WWWA: WWWA Champion—Brutus Beefcake; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Harley Lewis; 4—S.D. Jones; 5—The Zombie; 6—Glenn Osbourne; 7—Mad Russian; 8—Johnny Rebel; 9—Super Nova; 10—Mr. Haiti.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Tag team swan song? At press time, the tag team scene in the WWF was in disarray. At Survivor Series, then-World champs **Shawn Michaels** and **Diesel** had a falling-out. Michaels accidentally kicked his tag team partner during a 10-man tag team match, then went on to throw away his belt in anger before driving away from the arena.



Diesel

Michaels and Diesel were angry, but at the time there might still have been some hope for the team. That slim chance at reconciliation disappeared three days later, though, when Diesel pinned **Bob Backlund** for the World title in a bout that lasted just eight seconds. He vowed to destroy the "Heartbreak Kid" if he ever dared

to set foot in the ring with him.

While Diesel and Michaels' split certainly hurt an already weak tag team crop in the WWF, it did open a window of opportunity for the teams competing regularly in the WWF.

As of this writing, the WWF World tag team title remains vacant.

The next logical question is this: Who deserves to be ranked as the number-one contenders? That brings us to a problem: There aren't that many enough legitimate tag team contenders in the WWF today. Can you envision **The Bushwhackers** as the World tag team champions, walking to the ring with the championship belts in their mouths? Do **Men on a Mission** have the stamina to win the belts and hold on to them for a sustained period of time? **The Headshrinkers** held the belts for four months in 1994, but they lost **Samu**—at least temporarily—and have looked shaky. What about **Well Dunn**? We don't think so, either. The crop is so weak that makeshift teams like **Tatanka** and **Bam Bam Bigelow** are able to have some success.

For now, we'll go with **The Smokin' Gunns** as number-one contenders simply because they have consistently beaten **The Heavenly Bodies** over the last few months.

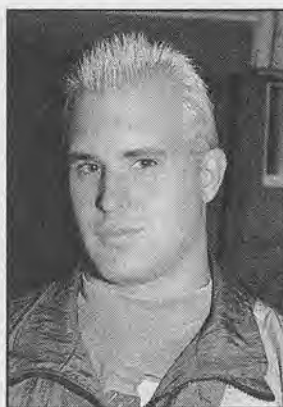
The state of tag team wrestling in the WWF—and in wrestling in general—is in danger of getting worse. The top teams, for the most part, are experienced duos like **The Bushwhackers**. Precious

few good, young teams are coming into the WWF these days.

What happened to the tag team boom of the 1980s? During that decade, there was an abundance of teams that had tremendous ability and worked well together. Who could forget the classic battles between **The Bushwhackers** (then **The Shepherders**) and **The Fantastics**, **The Road Warriors** vs. **Ivan** and **Nikita Koloff**, or **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** against **The Midnight Express**? These were the feuds that made tag team wrestling great. The **Fantastics**, **The Bushwhackers**, and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** are still rolling along but aren't nearly as effective as they used to be. One day, we won't have these duos to rely upon for great team action. What will become of the sport then?

The NWA returns ... again! **Chris Candido** was crowned the new NWA champion after he defeated **Tracey Smothers** in the final round of a tournament held in November in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Candido, managed by **Tammy Fytch**, made it to the finals by pinning **Al Snow** in the opening round and **Tony Anthony** in the semifinals.

As is our policy with all promotions, we will not list the NWA in the ratings until we are satisfied it has been re-established as an organization that regularly promotes cards, with its champion regularly defending the belt. This doesn't sit too well with the new champion, though.



Chris Candido

"I am the best world champion there ever was," Candido told us. "I deserve to be recognized. I've beaten all the competitors and I am your champion and I should be treated as such!"

At least he's off to a better start than **Shane Douglas**, who won a tournament for the NWA title in August. He threw the belt down, insisting he didn't want to be champion of a "dead federation."

Your opinion counts! What do you think about the state of tag team wrestling today? Can it be resurrected? Do you think the new NWA should be recognized? If you have any comments about our ratings or this column, send them to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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4661	4 Non Blondes	2761	Crosby, Stills, Nash	4631	Indigo Girls	6352	Nelson	7643	Smithereens
2231	AC/DC	2765	Crowded House	4691	INXS	6393	New Order	7661	Sonic Youth
2371	Aerosmith	2791	Cry of Love	2768	Jackson Browne	6461	Nine Inch Nails	7683	Soul Asylum
6261	Aimee Mann	2853	The Cult	5224	Jackyl	6471	Nirvana	7682	SoundGarden
2664	Alice Cooper	2871	The Cure	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ	7746	Spin Doctors
2541	Alice in Chains	3261	Damn Yankees	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne	7181	Squeeze
2551	Allman Bros.	3262	Danger Danger	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera	8242	Steve Vai
2681	Anthrax	3265	Danzig	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth	6421	Stevie Nicks
2527	B-52s	2691	David Bowie	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon	7842	Sting
2233	Bad Company	7681	David Lee Roth	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney	7863	Stone Temple Pilots
2323	Beatles	3332	Deep Purple	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg	7834	Suede
2325	Beck	3331	Def Leppard	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam	7841	Suicidal Tendencies
2352	Belly	3371	Depeche Mode	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel	7862	Sundays
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	4282	Juliana Hatfield	3722	Peter Frampton	8341	Suzanne Vega
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters	3462	Dio	5262	Kansas	7441	Phish	8251	Talking Heads
4361	Billy Idol	3472	Dire Straits	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd	8321	Tears For Fears
5632	Billy Joel	3733	Dream Theater	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison	6841	Ted Nugent
2524	Black Sabbath	3871	Duran Duran	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros	8371	Tesla
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus	8372	Testament
2544	Blind Melon	2741	Edie Brickell	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong	8432	The The
3951	Bob Dylan	5641	Elton John	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen	7381	Tom Petty
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche	2622	Tom Cochrane
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.	8662	Tool
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	LIVE	7232	Radiohead	8741	Trixxter Fan Club
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones	8221	U2
4673	Bruce Hornsby	3241	Faith No More	7931	Matthew Sweet	7283	RATT	8241	UB40
7771	Bruce Springsteen	3442	Fight	6322	Meat Loaf	7332	Red Hot Chili Peppers	8451	Ugly Kid Joe
2321	Bryan Adams	3471	Firehouse	6241	Megadeth	6273	Richard Marx	8743	Urge Overkill
2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant	8262	Van Halen
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart	6341	Vince Neil
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones	8461	Violent Femmes
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band	9271	W.A.S.P.
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush	9272	Warrant
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich	9441	White Zombie
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana	9463	The Who
2671	Elvis Costello	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura	9454	Wilson Phillips
2683	Counting Crows	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor	9671	World Party
2682	Coverdale/Page	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row	9371	Yes
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WRESTLING ENQUIRER

BIG VAN VADER DEMANDS MATCH AGAINST HULK HOGAN!

Claims WCW Champion Has Ducked Him For Months

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

ATLANTA—When Big Van Vader beat The Guardian Angel and Sting in a triangular match at Fall Brawl, he was deemed the number-one contender to the WCW World title. Since that September pay-per-view event, however, he has received exactly zero shots at the championship, and he is furious about that.

"Hogan is afraid of me," Vader screamed. "When he got done with Flair, it was supposed to be my turn. Now all I hear him talk about is 'The Butcher,' and Randy Savage and Kevin Sullivan. I'm sick of seeing Hogan act like a coward!"

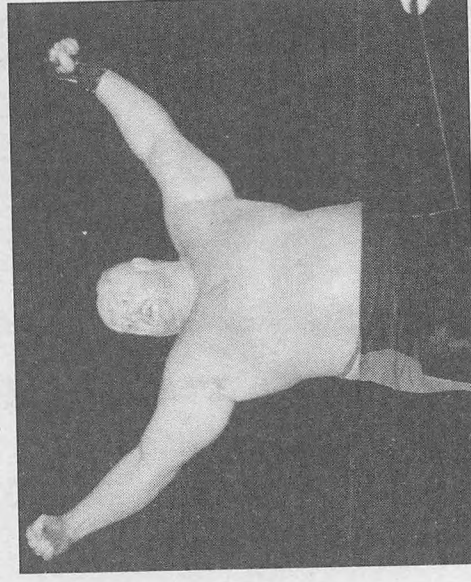
There is reportedly growing tension between Vader and Harley Race. Race added Steve Austin to his stable in November, and Vader is apparently worried that his manager won't be devoting enough of his time to *his* career.

"All I know is that Harley told me he'd get me a shot at Hogan," Vader said, "and it hasn't happened yet. I'm not a patient man. I want Hogan right now."

As of press time, Vader was still in the midst of a feud with Hacksaw Duggan. The patriotic U.S. champion saved Dustin Rhodes from a horrible postmatch beating at Vader's hands at Clash of the Champions XXIX in November.

"Duggan should know better than to play Vader's pain game," the three-time former WCW World champ said. "I'll take his title, then stuff that American flag of his down his throat. Then I want Hogan. I don't care if he has the title or not. I'll meet him in a dark alley if that's what it takes."

According to a WCW source, Vader turned down Kevin Sullivan's invitation to join his Three Faces of Fear, saying he wanted to destroy Hogan on his own.



Big Van Vader was supposed to get a shot at WCW World Champion Hulk Hogan after he won a triangular match at Fall Brawl. He hasn't ... and he's angry.

Funk Seeks Shots At NWA Title

By DAVE LENKER

HAYSI, VA—Chris Candido's reign as NWA champion is off to a rocky start and things could get even worse in the very near future as 50-year-old former NWA World champion Terry Funk is pleading for a shot at the title.

"I may be a half-century old," Funk said, "but there's a lot of fight left in this beat-up old carcass of mine. I don't care if Candido is two or three decades younger than me. I could kick his butt any day of the week. I'll prove that."

Candido, who was trained by Dory Funk Jr., Terry's brother, was pinned in a non-title

match by Rick Morton on a Smoky Mountain card and, along with Boo Bradley and manager Tammy Fytch, is also involved in a series of wars with Cactus Jack and Brian Lee. Jack is trying to lure Bradley away from the Candido-Fytch camp, but they have threatened to harm Bradley's best friend—a cat named Boots—if he doesn't stay with them.

"I don't care what kind of problems he's having," said Funk, who held the NWA belt from December 1975 to February 1977. "When I'm done with him, he'll know what the tradition of the NWA is all about!"

Helen Hart: "I Did The Right Thing!"

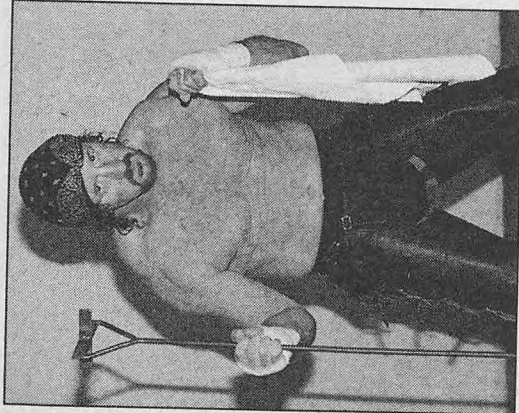
By DAVE ROSENBAUM

CALGARY, ALBERTA—Reacting to widespread criticism that she cost her son Bret the WWF World title, Helen Hart insists she made the correct decision when she threw in the towel while "The Hitman" was caught in Bob Backlund's chicken wing at Survivor Series.

"I did the right thing," she said in an *Enquirer* exclusive. "I couldn't stand to see Bret suffer. When Owen said he was sorry for all he did to Bret ... that's all that mattered to me. I just wanted my whole family to be together again. I did what any mother would do! I'd do it again, too!"

Stu Hart, while insisting there was no friction between him, Bret, and Helen, disagreed.

"My son never would have quit!" he said. "If he got injured, so be it. That's wrestling. The towel shouldn't have been thrown in under any circumstances! I love my wife, but she made the wrong decision in this case."



Terry Funk won the NWA title nearly 20 years ago. The 50-year-old warrior would like nothing better than a chance to win that championship again.

"Loser" Gets WWA Junior Heavyweight Belt

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

CLEMENTON, NJ—How does one win a tournament and a title when one is pinned in the final round of said tournament? The WWA's "Jungle" Jim McPherson found out how after he was pinned by El Latino in the final round of that federation's tournament for the vacant junior heavyweight title.

McPherson lost the match to his masked rival, but he wasn't about to accept the defeat graciously. He fiercely attacked Latino and ripped off his mask, revealing the mystery man to be East L.A.

One problem: East L.A. had been suspended by the WWA several weeks earlier and banned from participating in the tourney. After witnessing the unmasking, promoter Larry Sharpe took the belt from East L.A. and awarded it to McPherson.

AROUND THE GLOBE

OKAYAMA, JAPAN

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams thrives on his reputation as one of the toughest wrestlers in the world. He wasn't happy when Toshiaki Kawada unseated him as Triple Crown champion. He reports that he is working hard to get rematches, but for now is settling for tag team victories. Williams, Johnny Ace, and Dan Kroffat beat Takada, Akira Taue, and Yoshinari Ogawa in a bout here.

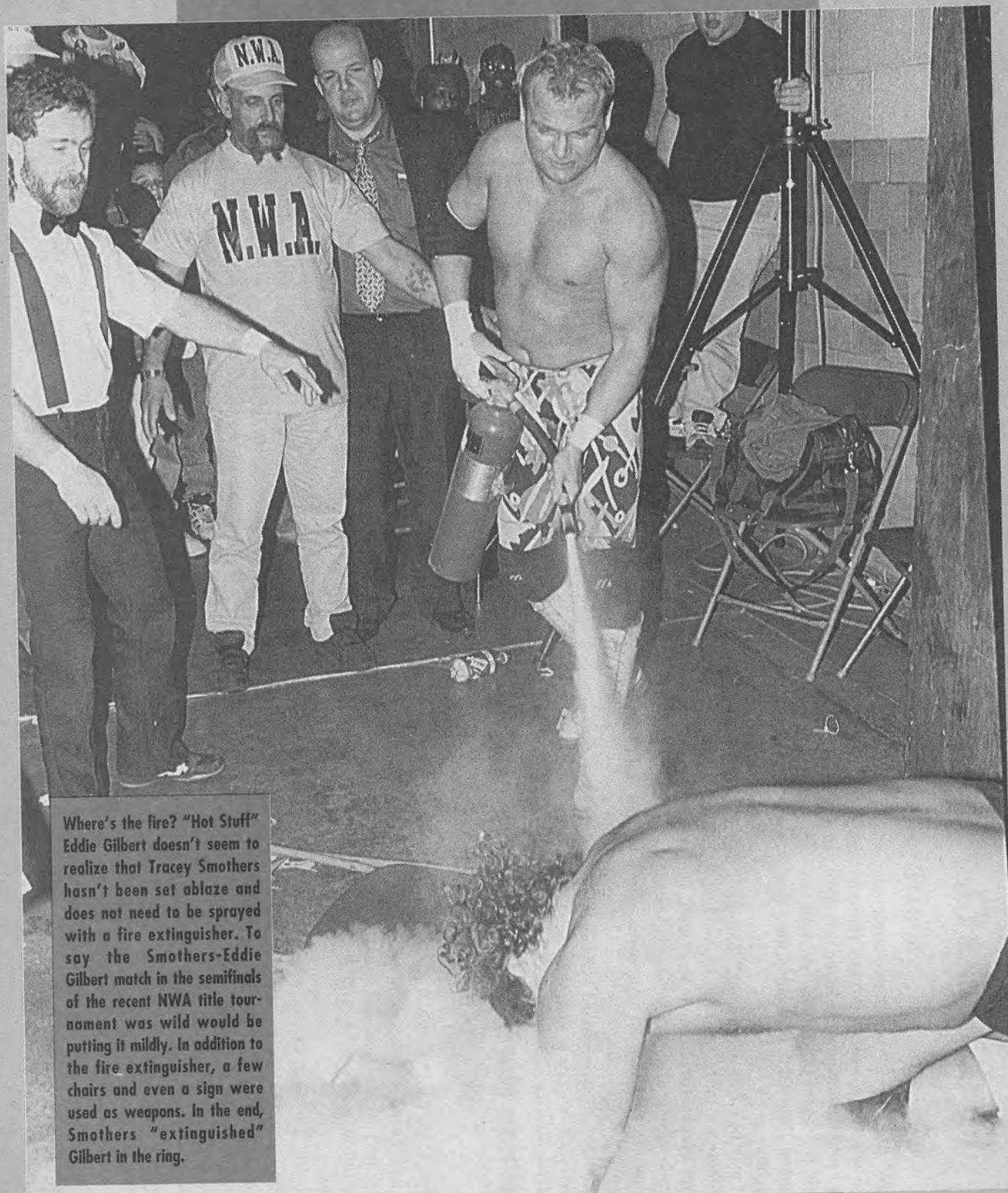
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

King Kong Bundy is in line for a series of matches against new WWF World champion Diesel, but he may not be as invincible as Ted DiBiase would like to think he is. He struggled in his first few bouts against Diesel and was beaten by Davey Boy Smith here. Maybe the 446-pounder's best days really are behind him.

YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

Former WCW stars Ron Simmons and 2 Cold Scorpio are currently joining forces to wage war against ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas, but their alliance is not limited to North America. Simmons and Scorpio teamed with fellow Americans Scott Norton and Tim Horner against Japanese superstars The Great Muta, Manabu Nakanishi, Shinya Hashimoto, and Hiroshi Hase, losing a wild match.

HOT SHOT



Where's the fire? "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert doesn't seem to realize that Tracey Smothers hasn't been set ablaze and does not need to be sprayed with a fire extinguisher. To say the Smothers-Eddie Gilbert match in the semifinals of the recent NWA title tournament was wild would be putting it mildly. In addition to the fire extinguisher, a few chairs and even a sign were used as weapons. In the end, Smothers "extinguished" Gilbert in the ring.

Photo by Bill Apter

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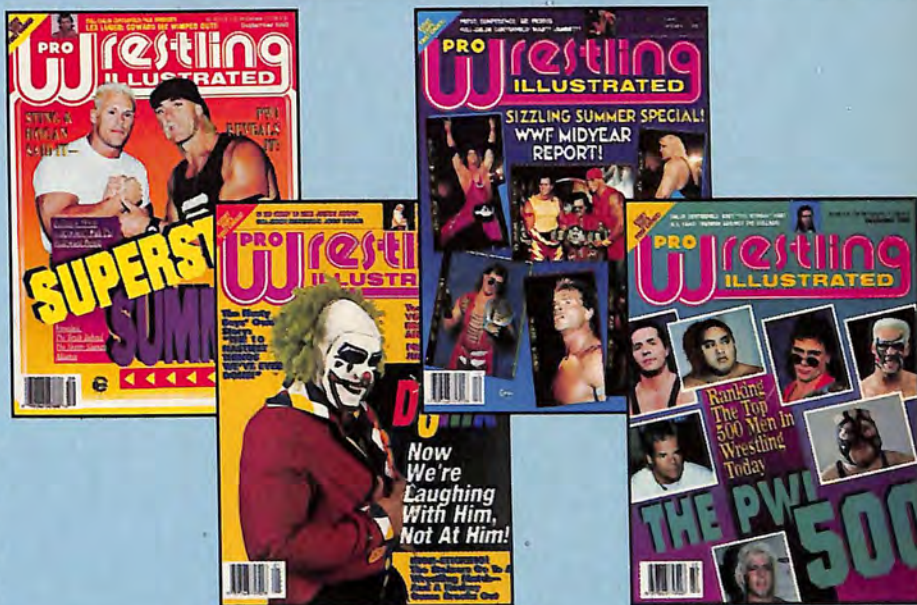
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